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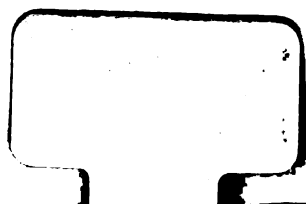




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**INSTRUCTIONS**  
**FOR THE**  
**FORMATIONS AND MOVEMENTS**  
**OF**  
**YEOMANRY CAVALRY,**

**FOUNDED UPON**  
**THE REGULATIONS APPROVED BY THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF,**  
**IN THE YEAR 1797.**

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**WITH ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS,**  
**ADAPTED TO MODERN PRACTICE.**

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**Nottingham:**  
**PRINTED BY SAMUEL BENNETT, MARKET-PLACE.**

**MDCCCXXI.**





## INTRODUCTION.

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THE System of Formation and Field-Movement, in which the British Cavalry have been drill'd and instructed since the year 1796, although admirable in principle, and in the mathematical precision of its details, has of late been generally considered to require some degree of Revision and curtailment. The Manceuvres usually called for in the presence of an Enemy, are few, and of the most simple description ; but it is necessary that Troops should be instructed in all modes of formation and movement, which, under any probable circumstances, may be required of them ;\* and in this instruction, the main object of Military Tactics should always be kept in view ; namely, to concentrate the force and

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\* In the following Instructions for Field Movements, none have been introduced but such as are considered useful and fit for actual service. Thus the Advance in Double Column of Half-squadrons, or Divisions, has been adopted as good and useful ; but the Retiring in Double Column omitted, as being an unsafe mode of Retreat, and wholly unfit for Cavalry in the presence of an active Enemy.

It has not been deemed necessary to make a repetition of each Manceuvre, with the simple difference of Right or Left in front ; unless some peculiarity attached to the movement in consequence.

power of many, and to render these available and obedient to the intelligence of One. This principle applies perhaps more peculiarly to Cavalry, than either to Infantry or Artillery, since the whole effect of the former in war, must depend upon promptness of decision, and rapidity of execution. Without these qualities, Cavalry are worse than useless.

A Regiment of Cavalry is therefore divided into Squadrons, as distinct Integral Bodies, dependant upon one Leader, whose duty it is to catch up, repeat, and execute the orders of the Commanding Officer as soon as spoken; that the whole thus acting in concert, may be but as the limbs of one body, moving by the impulse of a single will.

Mere Parade Movements, used for purposes of Inspection, Appearance, and Display, should be considered entirely separate from those for the field, and for active duty. The former have their uses and advantage; and the regularity and precision of their Execution are by no means to be neglected; as they tend to inculcate the necessity of military order and discipline; and also to raise in the Soldier a feeling of pride in his individual appearance, and that of his Corps, which it is always desirable that he should possess. Good Marching Past is generally the prelude to a good Field Day; and, on the contrary, when this first Parade Movement has been performed in a slovenly and indifferent manner, the Manœuvres that follow will usually partake of that character.

In this point of view, there is no objection to the use of Camp Colours to mark the ground for Infantry; or markers posted to give the Square for Cavalry during these Parade Movements.\* But in Field Movements and formations

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\* To preserve the uniformity of the System, it is shown, in the Instructions for Parade Movements, that Markers, even in these, may be dispensed with.

adapted to active service, all this cumbersome machinery should be put aside : nor will their absence be perceived if the Officers are active, intelligent, and conversant with their duty, except in the increased rapidity of the Movements and Formations, and the quickness and precision of the Dressings upon each.

It is not within the compass, or objects of this Work to enter into the details of the first drill and formation of the Recruit, the training of young Horses, and all the minutiae of the Drill Ground and Riding School. Field Movements and Manœuvres should commence where these end ; and, indeed, nothing can be added on these points to the subject, as treated in the “ Instructions in Military Equitation, &c.,” published by authority of the Adjutant General June 1st, 1819 :\* which commences with the first position of the Recruit on Horseback, and embraces every point of instruction both of man and horse, until fitted for the Ranks in Squadron.

But there are some observations necessary with respect to the posting and duties of Officers ; which, if properly attended to, will enable them to perform these, without the assistance of Non-commissioned Officers to point out their Intervals, Dressing, Covering, &c. ; an assistance which it must be injurious to an Officer to depend upon ; since, under the most critical circumstances, in the presence of an Enemy, he may for the first time be called upon to dispense with it. It is moreover of the utmost importance that the men should be habituated to look to, and depend upon, their Officers under all circumstances. To follow them in movement, to look to them alone for the points of formation ; and, in case of dispersion, or confusion of any kind, that the Officer halting, and raising his Sword, should be the sure and constant rallying point for those under his immediate command.

## GENERAL RULES.

**THE SQUADRON OFFICER** has the sole and entire command of his Squadron, while formed and acting as such ; His constant post is in front of the Centre, to which point every eye must look for the formation and dressing in **LINE**.

When the Squadron moves to either flank by **Threes**, the Squadron Officer turns on his own ground, and every individual retains his relative position. The Half-squadron Officers on the flank of their front-rank **Threes**, on the flanks of the Squadron.

When in **OPEN** or in **CLOSE COLUMN**, the Squadron is equally under his sole command ; the Half-squadron Officers, or Division Leaders, being entrusted with the preservation of the Intervals and the correct covering of the pivot-flank, under his superintendence.

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Whenever the Squadron is broken into Half-squadrons, for the purposes of Movement, in Echelon, Peloton, &c. ; the Half squadron Officers take the command of their respective Half-squadrons, and immediately place themselves in front of the Centre.

(N. B. In every small detached body of Cavalry, the post of the Officer commanding it, is in front of the Centre, when fronted, or in line.)

In Echelon or Peloton, or when otherwise detached, Half-squadron Officers and Division Leaders are in front, and in command of their respective bodies, during the movement ; and, when a formation is ordered, they will immediately look to the Squadron Officer, and move upon him as their Central point of Formation for the Squadron.

In a flank march by Threes, of Half-squadrons or Divisions so detached, the constant post of the Officer commanding, is on the flank of his leading front-rank Threes; and, if fronted on the march, he resumes his place in front of the Centre.

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The Duty of the Serrefile Officers is to see that the rear-ranks are steady, and dress well up to their front-rank men; but, if any remarks or corrections are necessary, they must be made as quietly as possible, and without moving from their own position.

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A Non-commissioned Officer is placed on each flank, of Half-squadrons, and Divisions, to aid the general movements of the Squadron, and to ensure the steadiness of the flanks, in Column, Echelon, &c.

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The first object of every Cavalry Officer entrusted with the command of any portion of the Regiment, upon taking his Post, should be to make a rapid survey of the position and bearings of the Line or Column. His Eye should be habituated to take a line directly perpendicular to his front; which he must determine at once, by any two points he can perceive upon it—a distant Tree, a Bush, with even a tuft of Grass or Heather may serve for this purpose. This is not merely necessary in case of leading directly upon the Line so taken, but also in deciding the Angle of a Wheel, that it may be halted exactly square to the former front.

His next object should be, to measure with his eye, and fix in his mind, by comparison with the ground, the exact length of the front of his Squadron, Half-

squadron, or Division ; that he may be enabled to ascertain and take up the correct intervals required in various movements and formations.

In the Officer commanding the leading Half-squadron, or Division of a Column, the greatest attention and quickness in taking up a direct line, is most essential. The moment a wheel is made into a new direction, and the word "*Forward*," given, he must instantly fix upon two objects, whereon to move, in a line perpendicular to the new front of the Column.

If the Word of Command be "*Right or Left Wheel!*" this always signifies that the inward flank is to Halt, and the outward flank to describe a Quarter Circle, forming an Angle of 90 Degrees with its former position. In like manner the *Half-Wheel* is an Eighth ; the *Quarter Wheel* a sixteenth of the circumference.

If the Word of Command be "*Right or Left Shoulders!*" the Inward flank does not Halt ; and the portion of a circle described by the Outward Flank is at the discretion of the Commanding Officer, who gives the word, "*Forward!*" when in the direction required. The Leading Officer catching up his points upon the new line of March, perpendicular to the front, upon that word.

To preserve an even pace and regularity of intervals in the Column, on bringing the Right or Left Shoulders forward, it is necessary to observe, that the Pivot Flank does not alter its pace. If the turn be towards the Pivot Flank, that will move round in a very small circle, at the same pace in which the Body was previously moving ; the Outer Flank increasing the pace until they receive the word, "*Forward!*" If the turn be made to the Reverse Flank, the Pivot Flank will move steadily round, without any alteration of pace, and the Reverse Flank will slacken to half its former speed, and resume the pace on the word, "*Forward!*"

## PACES OF CAVALRY.

THE Paces of Infantry require to be regulated by the length of step, and numbers in a minute, &c. Those of Cavalry are separate and distinct, as regulated by nature: the Walk, Trot, and Gallop.

It should be generally understood, and so practised in *Manœuvre*, that when a walk is sounded, it should be as fast as can be maintained by a Column of Troops, without breaking into a Trot; and, when a Trot is sounded, as fast as can be maintained by all, without breaking into a gallop. The latter Pace will be at the rate of full nine miles an hour; and there is no difficulty, with a little practice, to attain sufficient steadiness to depend upon it. Should the Commanding Officer desire to reduce the Speed, it is very easily regulated to any point necessary. But if Regiments were drilled to keep strictly to the Pace sounded, it would save much trouble and confusion; and they might depend upon a *Walk* of four miles, and a *Trot* of nine miles an hour. *The Gallop* should be always well in hand, (rather faster than a Canter,) about twelve miles an hour; and *the Charge* should be equal to the full speed of the slowest horses.





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# FORMATIONS

AND

## PARADE MOVEMENTS.

---

A REGIMENT of LIGHT CAVALRY should consist of not less than *Three Squadrons*, nor of more than *Five Squadrons*.

Squadrons are composed each of *Two Troops*; the strength of which must necessarily vary, according to circumstances; but no Squadron should contain less than *Thirty-six Files*.

Forty-eight Files form a good Squadron for Drill and Exercise; but the best effective strength for all purposes, especially on foreign service, is *Sixty Files* when told off.

A Troop should therefore consist (exclusive of Officers) of—

- 1 Quarter Master, or Troop Sergeant Major,
- 4 Serjeants,
- 4 Corporals,
- 1 Trumpeter,
- 1 Farrier, and
- 60 Privates,

which will allow for some casualties.



## FORMATION OF THE TROOP.

---

EACH Troop forms on its own Troop Parade in Rank Entire, and sized according to *the Mounted Size Roll*.<sup>\*</sup> That, which is to be the Right Troop of the Squadron, is sized *from Left to Right*; and that, which is to be the Left Troop, *from Right to Left*; that the largest Men and Horses may be in the centre of the Squadron when formed.

The Non-commissioned Officers at even intervals along the front, facing the Troop, at *two horses' length* distance.

The Captain, or senior Officer present, then gives the word,

Attention!

Eyes  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{right} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{left} \end{array} \right\}$  to the flank from which the Troop is sized;

and, when correctly dressed,

Eyes front!

The Inspection is then made, and the Non-commissioned Officers called upon to account for any irregularity in the respective Squads.

The Officer in command then gives the word,

Number off from the  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{right} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{left} \end{array} \right\}$  the flank from which the sizing commenced.

Suppose the Right Troop of the Squadron, and the number of Privates present, to be *Forty*;

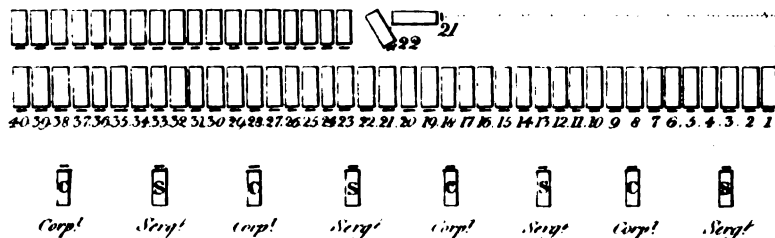
<sup>\*</sup> The Captain, and each Troop Officer, should have at all times in possession the following Rolls: viz.

1. A correct Muster Roll of the Troop, according to each Man's number; with which every article of his Arms, Clothing, and Appointments is marked.
2. A Squad Roll of the Troop divided into four parts; a Sergeant and Corporal to each.
3. A Mounted Size Roll; and, 4. A Dismounted Size Roll.

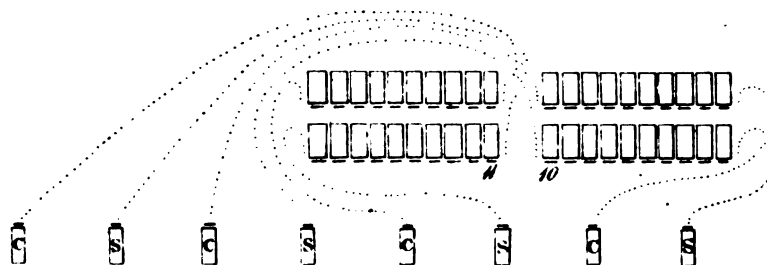


*Plato 1.*

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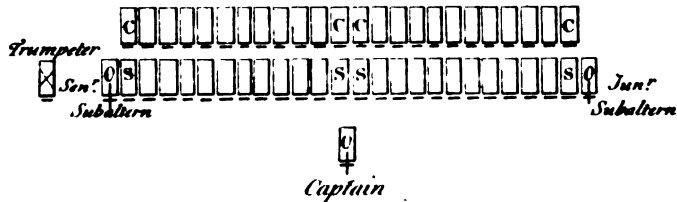
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*Farrier*

*Quarter Master or  
Troop Sergt. Major*

C



*Plato formed*

The Officer (taking the half,) will give the caution,

No. 20. *Right of the Front Rank!*

No. 21. *Left of the Rear Rank!*

PLATE 1.—A.

The two Men so numbered stretch out their right hands to the front, as instructed in drill. He will then give the words,

Rear Rank, by your left, rein backwards!

March!.....Halt!

Left File!.....Right form! and Cover!

The Caution is then given (taking as near the half of the front Rank, as will admit of the left Division being a centre one of the Squadron, sub-dividing exactly by *three*, when the Non-commissioned Officers are posted,)

No. 10. *Right of the Left Division;*

No. 11. *Left of the Right Division!*

The Men so numbered holding out their hands.

Right Division, right Passage!

March!.....Halt, Dress!

PLATE 1.—B.

To gain an interval of about *two Yards*, for the admission of the Non-commissioned Officers on the flanks of each Division.

The Officer will then place a Sergeant on both flanks of each Division, in the front Rank, covered by a Corporal in the rear Rank.

If there should not be a sufficient number of Non-commissioned Officers present, Corporals will take the place of Sergeants, and intelligent Privates replace the Corporals.

An Officer is posted on each flank of the front Rank; and the Serrefile (if any) with the Quarter Master or Troop Sergeant Major, half a horse's length in the rear. The Farrier half a horse's length in rear of the Troop Sergeant Major.

PLATE 1.—C.

If the two Troops of the Squadron are paraded in the same Barrack, or on ground near to each other, they may file off at once, and form Squadron without telling off; but if a Troop has any distance to march, the Officer will tell them off by *alternate files*, and by *threes* before moving from his Troop Parade.

## FORMATION OF THE SQUADRON.

---

WHEN the two Troops close together to form the Squadron, the Officers move out to the front, and place themselves, at even intervals, facing their Troops, at *two horses' length* distance; the Captain facing the centre.

The Squadron Officer then ascertains the strength of his Divisions, and equalizes them by shifting a file or two, if necessary.

When the strength of the Squadron admits of each Division being told off *exactly into threes* it is an eligible circumstance; but at any rate care must be taken that the *two centre Divisions* are *equal*, and *divide exactly by threes*, (and their flank Sergeants posted accordingly,) although the *flank Divisions* do not, and are thereby a file or two stronger or weaker.

The distance of Files, in all Formations and Movements, is *six inches from knee to knee*, which should be most strictly attended to.

The distance of Ranks, is *half a horse's length*, taken from head to croup, which is the constant and essential distance of Formation and Movement.

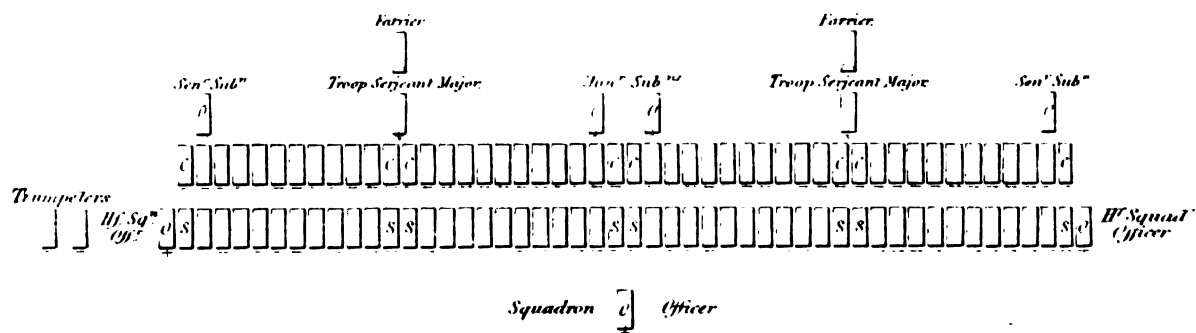
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## TELLING-OFF THE SQUADRON.

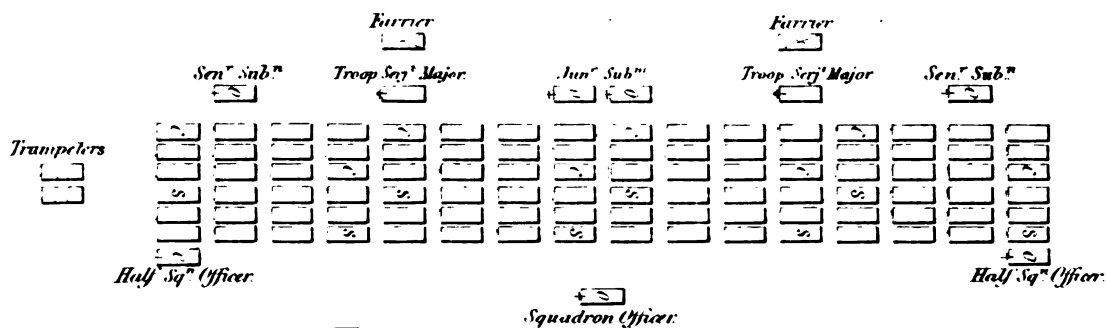
THE Squadron Officer then tells-off his Squadron  
 by.....Two Half Squadrons,  
 by.....Four Divisions,  
 by.....Threes  
 and by.....Alternate Files, commencing from the centre of the Squadron,  
 Thus:—" *Left, Centre, Right,*" in the Right Half-squadron,  
 and " *Right, Centre, Left,*" in the Left Half-squadron.



*Cap 2*



*Squadron formed*



*Three Eight-!*

The Tellings-off are then proved by the Squadron Officer, those called upon extending their hands:—viz.

Right files.....proof!.....As you were!

Left files .....proof!.....As you were!

Centre by threes.....proof!.....As you were!

Flanks of threes .....proof!.....As you were!

Flanks of Divisions.....proof!.....As you were!

The Officers then fall-in, and are thus posted:

*Squadron Officer*.....One horse's length in front of the exact centre of the Squadron.

*Two Half-squadron Officers*.....One on each flank of the front Rank.

*Serrefiles*.....In rear of their Troops, at half a horse's length from the rear Rank.

The next in seniority to the Half-squadron Officer being in rear of the *second File* from the flank of the Squadron. The junior in rear of the second File from *the inward flank* of his Troop.

*Quarter Masters, or Troop Sergeant Majors*.....In rear of the centre of their Half-Squadrons, at half a horse's length,—and

*Farriers*.....At a horse's length in rear of the Troop Sergeant Major.

*Trumpeters*.....On the right of the Squadron, two horses' length from the flank; while the Squadron is detached.

**PLATE 2.**

## FORMATION OF THE REGIMENT.

IN a Regiment or Line, the Squadrons form with an interval between each, *equal to one-third* of their actual front.

The Squadrons, when in Line, are distinguished as—

Right Squadron.

Right-centre Squadron.



Centre Squadron.

Left-centre Squadron.

Left Squadron.

The tellings-off, &c. remain unchanged.

The Half-squadrons will likewise be distinguished by numbers from the right; as, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, &c. &c.

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## INSPECTION OR REVIEW.

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WHEN a Regiment is formed for an Inspection or Review, the Band and Trumpeters are on the right, with a moderate interval; and the Staff (i. e. Pay Master, Surgeon, Regimental Quarter Master, &c.) on the right of the Band: except the Adjutant, who takes post on the right flank, at even distance between that and the Band, covered by the Regimental Sergeant Major, in line with the rear Rank. The Farriers on the left of the line.

The Commanding Officer *two horses' length* in front of the Officer commanding the centre Squadron.

PLATE 3.—A.

The word is given,

Attention!.....By the Right;.....Dress!

At the word, "Dress," each Squadron Officer turns *to the right about*, facing the centre of his Squadron:—and each Half-squadron Officer moves out, and *faces the outward flank File* of his Half-squadron.

The Adjutant places himself fronting the centre of the Right Half-squadron, No. 1; and the Regimental Sergeant Major fronting the centre of the left, No. 2:—the Adjutant regulates the Dressing of the Line upon the Officers of the Right Squadron.

PLATE 3.—B.

When the Line is correctly dressed, the word is given,

Eyes front!





The Half-squadron Officers, Adjutant, and Sergeant Major return to their posts, and the Squadron Officers front.

---

A fixed point is to be marked out, in front of the centre, according to the strength of the Regiment, at a distance fully equal to its front in Line, where the General is supposed to take his station; but, although he may choose to quit that position, still that spot is to be considered as the Reviewing Point, to which all movements and formations are relative.

---

## RECEIVING THE GENERAL.

---

UPON the first intimation of the approach of the General, or Reviewing Officer, the words will be given,

Attention!

Rear Ranks take Order!.....March! { Repeated by the  
Squadron Officers.

N. B. All Words and Cautions given by the Commanding Officer, must immediately be repeated, in a loud and distinct tone, by each Squadron Officer, except when in close column.

At the Caution, "Rear Ranks take Order!" the two Corporals in the rear Rank, on each flank of the Squadron, rein back quickly, and take up the proper distance to the rear; viz. about equal to *one-fourth of the front* of the Squadron, Dressing to the Right;—and, at the word, "March!" the rear Rank rein back to them, the whole dressing to the right;—also, at the word "March!" all the Officers move out briskly to *one horse's length* in front; each Half-squadron Officer in front of the centre of his Half-squadron; the next in seniority in front of *the second File* from the flank of the Squadron, and the remainder at equal distances towards the centre.

The whole are dressed by the Adjutant to the right. The Squadron Officers move forward *one horse's length* in front of the line of Officers, dressing to the right: and the Commanding Officer *two horses' length* in front of them, and of the centre of the Regiment. The Troop Sergeant Majors will rein back to *one horse's length* from the rear Rank, remaining in rear of the centre of their respective Troops.

When the whole are dressed and steady, he will give the word,

Eyes front!

PLATE 3.—C.

When the General, or Reviewing Officer, has arrived upon the ground, the Commanding Officer gives the following Cautions and Word:—

Attention!

General Salute!

Draw Swords!

} Repeated as usual by the Squadron Officers.

At which word the whole draw Swords *in three motions*; the Officers bringing their swords down, at the last motion, to the Salute; the Non-commissioned Officers and Men carry Swords.

The Band or Trumpets sound as directed; after which, the Officers recover and carry Swords, taking the time from the Commanding Officer.

The General then proceeds to the right of the Line, accompanied by the Commanding Officer, and the whole remain perfectly steady, without paying any further compliment, while he passes along the Ranks; during which time, the Band will play, or Trumpets sound; and they will cease when the General has returned to the right flank of the Regiment, and is going away from it.

When the General is going from the Regiment, the word is given,

Slope Swords!

## MARCHING PAST.

---

THE Commanding Officer then gives the Caution,

March past by Half-squadrons!

This caution is especially given that the Officers may remain steady, upon closing the Ranks, and not return to their posts in Squadron, as under all other circumstances.

Rear Ranks to Close Order!

March!

The Rear Ranks move briskly up to the Close Order: also, at the word "March!" the Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major move out to take up the points.—The Sergeant Major places himself about the length of a Squadron from the extreme right, in line with the front rank, but facing to the rear:—The Adjutant, having seen him posted, gallops forward in a line at right angles to the original formation, to mark the flank point on the line for marching past.

The word is then given,

Threes Right!

The whole move at once upon the word; the Officers turning their horses to the right, upon their own ground.\*

PLATE 4.—A.

\* The object of Wheeling by Threes in Cavalry (right, left, or about,) is to effect that, which is obtained in Infantry by facing to the right, left, or about, viz: the position preparatory to a movement to either flank, or to the rear, without extension or derangement of order. The Turn to either hand, or to the rear being thus made upon the ground occupied by the Body of Troops, whether large or small.—The curtailment of the words of command for this operation is most beneficial; viz: that instead of waiting for the words, "March!" followed by "Halt, Dress!" the whole should move at once upon the word

"Threes {right,  
left, or  
about}" being given.—It will be necessary to pay much attention to this point in the Drill:—

That the Horses move smoothly round upon the centre, and *immediately dress to the Pivot flank*.—"Threes about!" is always to the "Right About"

The Field Bugle is directed to sound a Walk, and the word is given,  
 “ March !”

the Staff of the Regiment then fall out, and do not march past.

When the head of the Regiment reaches the point marked by the Sergeant Major, the word will be given, “ Right Shoulders !”—and “ Forward !”—when it is perpendicular to that marked by the Adjutant.

When the leading threes of the right Half-squadron are within half a horse's length of the Adjutant, the Half-squadron Officer will give the word, No. 1, Front! Forward! Eyes right! being one horse's length in front of the centre of his Half-squadron, and the Squadron Officer one horse's length in front of him.

*PLATE 4.—B.*

The senior Subaltern in front of the second File from the right, and the junior in front of the second File from the left, in the *Right Half-squadron*; and vice versa in the *Left Half-squadron*.

The Commanding Officer two horses' length in front of the Squadron Officer, preceded by the Band or Trumpets: the whole moving forward at a steady walk.

The next Half-squadron Officer will watch the moment, just before the preceding Half-squadron is ordered to front, to give the word,

Right incline! to his leading threes;  
 so as to disengage the head of his Half-squadron; and move on in the rear of the Half-squadron just fronted, to the point marked by the Adjutant; and, when within half a horse's length, give the word,

No. 2. Front!....Forward! Eyes right!  
 being careful to take up his proper Half-squadron interval.

No. 3, will take a squadron interval; and, in this manner, each Half-squadron is fronted, and clears the ground for its succeeding one.

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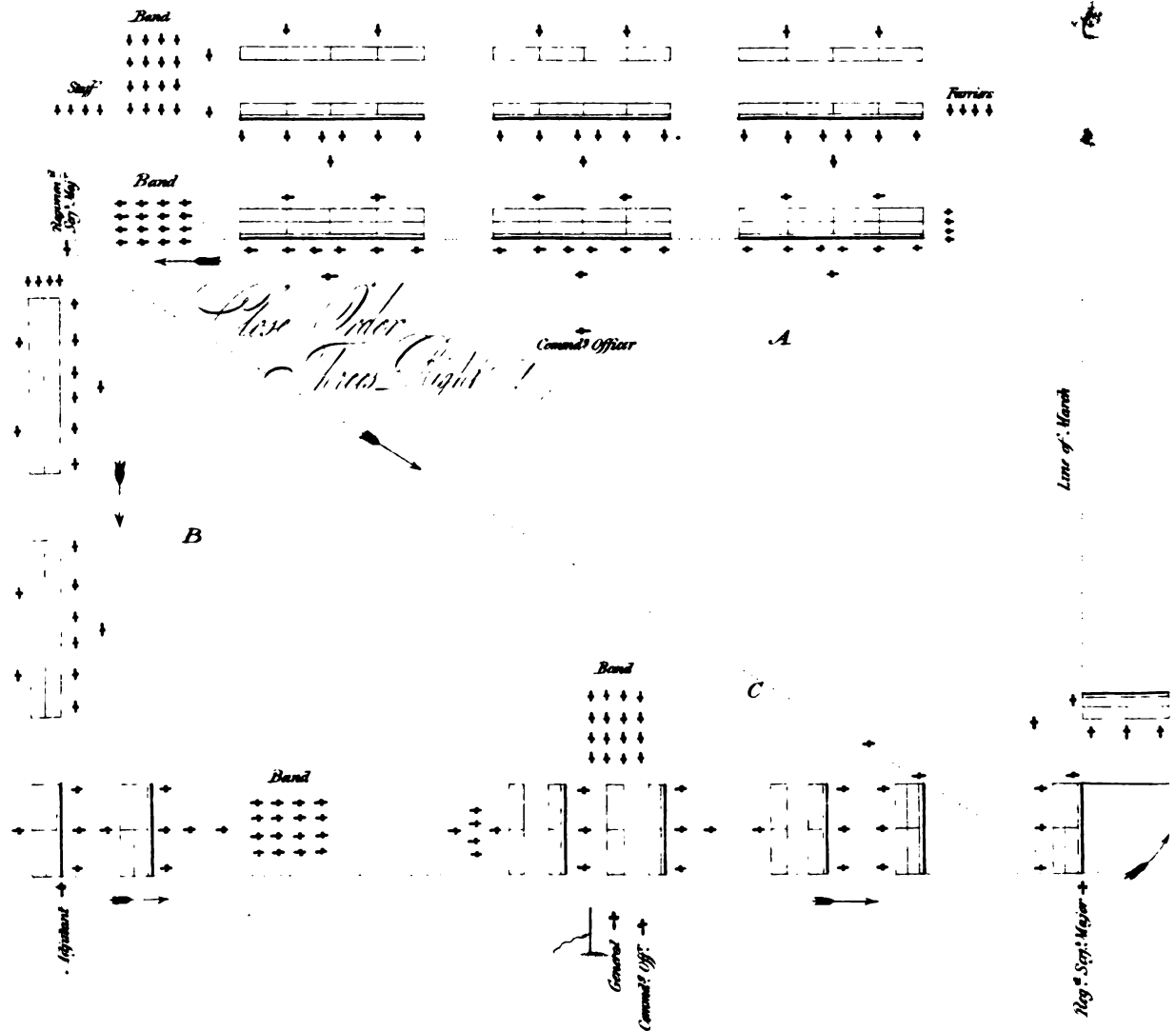
Immediately the rear of the Regiment has passed the point marked by the Sergeant Major, he rides diagonally across the ground, and takes a point, on the





# Parade Order

Plate 4



Marching East

line of marching past, the same distance on the *right* of the Reviewing Point, as that taken by the Adjutant on the *left*.

When the Band or Trumpets have passed the General, they turn to the left, take a position opposite to the Reviewing Point, and continue to play while the Regiment passes.

When the leading Half-squadron is within fifty yards of the General, the Half-squadron Officer gives the word,

“Rear Rank, take Order!”

“Carry Swords!”

The Commanding Officer salutes singly; and after having passed, places himself on the right of the General.

The officers of the right Half-squadrons take their time from the Squadron Officer, and salute with him; those of the left Half-squadron salute with the Half-squadron Officer; all dressing to *the right*.

When the *rear Rank* of the *next Half-squadron* shall have passed the General, the Half-squadron Officer will give the words,

Rear Rank, take Close Order!

Slope Swords!

He will then immediately take his proper post on the pivot flank of his Half-squadron, and his Subalterns theirs in the rear: and when the right flank of his Half-squadron has reached the point marked by the Sergeant Major, he will give the words,

Left wheel!

Forward!

Eyes left!

The Farriers march past in rear of the last Half-squadron; Troop Sergeant-Major in rear of their respective Troops; and the Adjutant in rear of the whole.

---

When the last Half-squadron shall have wheel'd, the Bugle will sound a Trot, and the whole Column will at once increase the pace to a *steady brisk trot* ac-

cordingly. When the head of the Column is about square with the original line of formation, the leading Half-squadron will wheel to the left, (the Adjutant marking the point when ordered,) and remaining until each Half-squadron has wheeled in succession. In this manner the Column proceeds, making two more wheels at the angles of the ground, till the leading Half-squadron has arrived on the line of passing the General; and when that has gained ground sufficient for the depth of a Close Column, the word will be given,

Column will close to the front!

No. 1. Halt!

The remaining Half-squadrons will wheel, move up, and halt in succession.

The Band having moved, during the march of the Column, to meet the Regiment at this point, the Troops will then pass the General *by single Files*, or *rank past by threes*.

---

## FILING PAST.

---

IF ordered to file past, as soon as the Column is formed, the word is given,

No. 1. Carry Swords!

Front Rank, *from Left to Front* file!\*

The Band will again move off at a steady walk in front of the whole: and, after having passed the General, turn and take up their former position:—

The Commanding Officer next, at two horses' length distance:

The Squadron Officer following, at one horse's length; and

The Officers of the Right Half-squadron next, each at half a horse's length from the preceding one:

---

\* In filing or ranking past, the *Right* Half-squadrons move off from the *Left*; and the *Left* Half-squadron from the *Right*; that the tallest men and horses may lead.

The Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates following in file, from the *Left of the front Rank*, according to their tellings-off, (as they stood in Line) and the rear Rank following, from the Left also, at *half a horse's length distance* through-out; each rank passing along the front of the Column, and bringing *the right shoulders forward* on the line of marching past.

The Troop Quarter Master or Sergeant Major in the rear.\*

Each Officer salutes separately in succession on passing the General.—The files must cover correctly, each man and horse square to the front; the eyes turned steadily upon the General in passing, without moving the head.

The left Half-squadron Officer gives the words,

No. 2. Carry Swords!

Front Rank, *from Right to Front* file!

and moves off himself *at two horses' length* from the Troop Sergeant Major of the preceding Half-squadron; his Subalterns following as before *at half a horse's length*, and the front and rear Ranks of his Half-squadron each *from the Right* in succession.

The Farriers, led by the Farrier Major, in rear of the whole, except the Adjutant, who passes last.

The Commanding Officer, after having passed and saluted, again places himself on the right of the General, and each Squadron Officer, having passed, places himself opposite to the General in front of the Band, remaining there until the whole of his squadron shall have passed.

When the head of the leading Half-squadron shall have reached the point marked (as before) by the Regimental Sergeant Major, the Officers will give the words,

Right Shoulders!

Forward!

---

\* The Troop Quarter Masters having been exchanged for Troop Sergeant Majors in the Regular Cavalry; the latter Term will be used in future, as their Posts and Duties in the field are the same.

and, when a distance is gained equal to the front,

**Right form!**

The front Rank will form up in succession, dressing at once to the *Left*; and the rear Rank will bring the *right shoulders forward*, and form in like manner, covering their front rank men correctly.

When formed, the word will be given,

**Slope Swords!**

They will then remain steady, until the next Half-squadron shall have formed, and Sloped Swords; upon which, the Half-squadron Officer will give the word,

**No. 1. Left Wheel!**

**Forward! Eyes left!**

and, having advanced a distance fully equal to the depth of the Close Column,

**Halt! Dress!**

In like manner each Half-squadron will remain steady, until the succeeding one shall have formed in it's rear, and Sloped Swords; upon which, it will advance to the point marked, wheel, and move up to close Column.

## **RANKING PAST BY THREES.**

If the Regiment be ordered to Rank past by Threes, (instead of Filing Past) the word is given,

**No. 1. Carry Swords!**

**Front Rank, by threes, from Left to Front, rank off!....March!**

**Left Shoulders!**

**Forward!**

along the front of the Half-squadron, till upon the line of marching past, then,

Right Shoulders!

Forward!

Eyes Right!

The Band will precede the whole, as before directed, followed by the Commanding Officer, Squadron Officer, and the Officer of the Right Half-squadron in succession: the distances as before stated.—The threes will open out *to a horse's length* from knee to knee, and *half a horse's length* from head to croup; following steadily, and dressing correctly to the right; every eye turned upon the General in passing, and the above intervals strictly preserved.

The Officers salute separately in succession; and the Commanding Officer and Squadron Officers will place themselves as in filing past.

When the leading threes shall have reached the point marked by the Regimental Sergeant Major, they will receive the words,

Right Shoulders!

Forward!

In effecting which, the Threes will also close to the regular distance; (of six inches from knee to knee) and, having gained the distance of the Half-squadron front, will receive the words,

Right form! Eyes left!

The rear Rank will follow, form, and cover as before directed—then

Slope Swords!

and proceed, exactly in the same manner as directed after the Filing past, to wheel and form the Close Column.

---

This being the conclusion of the general and regular Parade Movements,\*

---

\* The Marching Past by Squadrons, or the trotting or galloping past by Half-squadrons, or Division may be performed during the Field-Day, at the discretion of the Commanding Officer; but, as these Movements merely exhibit the March of an Open Column (at whatever pace) in its usual manner and formation, I do not class them with the distinct Parade Movements.

the Band and Farriers will retire to a convenient distance, during the Manœuvring of the Regiment; and the Commanding Officer from this point, will order such movements and formations, as he may consider best calculated to exhibit the steadiness and proficiency of his Regiment, or such as may be directed by the General or Reviewing Officer.

As a Regiment is generally required to perform the Sword or Lance Exercise during an Inspection—should the Commanding Officer think proper to do this in the first instance, immediately after the Ranking Past, the Regiment being in Close Column, he will give the words,

The Column will open to the front!

At a Trot! (the Bugle sounding the pace ordered,)

March!

The leading Half-squadron, No. 1, will move off at the word, in a brisk but steady trot; and each Half-squadron Officer in succession, will watch the moment to catch his proper interval; giving the number of his Half-squadron as a caution, and March! when the interval is gained,

No. 2. March!

&c. &c. &c.

---

The Commanding Officer will choose the point for wheeling his leading Half-squadron, which will be immediately marked by the Adjutant; and, when the centre of the Column is opposite the Reviewing Point, he will give the words,

Halt! (sounded also by the Bugle,)

Wheel into Line!

March!

Halt!

By the Right, Dress!

Eyes Front!

Advance from the right of threes to perform { Sword or } Exercise!  
 Lance

A Caution, upon which all Officers will move out in front of the line, as when at Parade Order; then,

March!

The Right of Threes will advance at a steady walk straight to the front, followed by the centre and left of threes in the front rank; the right of threes in the rear Rank immediately following them; each at half a horse's length distance, covering correctly in file, keeping strictly the interval first gained in moving forward, and dressing to the right.

When sufficient ground has been taken to the front, they will receive the word,

Halt!....Dress! After which,

Attention!

Front prove Distance!—Carry Sword or Lance!

Right prove Distance!—Carry Sword or Lance!

The Sword or Lance Exercise having been performed as directed, the words will be given,

Front form Squadron!

March!

Upon which the Right of Threes in the front rank stand fast, and the remaining files, both of front and rear rank, move up briskly to their places in close order. Squadron and Half-squadron Officers turn their horses to dress the Line, and the Serrefiles return to their posts.

The Line being dressed to the right, the word is given,

Eyes front!



## FORMATIONS AND FIELD MOVEMENTS.

---

THE three principal and essential Formations in Cavalry, are,—

The Close Column,

The Open Column, and

The Line.

The two former originating from, and having a constant reference to the last.

A body of Infantry possess both offensive and defensive powers; and their formations and movements are regulated accordingly:—Cavalry, on the contrary, is a force purely offensive; which is sufficiently obvious, since it can only defend itself by an attack.—The only species of simple Defence which Cavalry can make, is by the means of Skirmishes, to delay and harrass a superior attacking force, and thus to cover a retreat.

A Line, therefore, (whether of *One* or of *Ten* Squadrons,) is the formation on which Cavalry depends for the most effectual exertion of its powers against an Enemy: and is consequently that to which all other formations and movements must refer. Thus the intervals in an Open Column must be preserved, *as taken from the Line*, that the Squadrons, Half-squadrons, or Divisions composing it may wheel up again at once into Line, with the proper Squadron intervals, &c. as before: the Pivot Flanks covering correctly to facilitate this object.

In Infantry, the Close Column, Double Column, and Square, are used as defensive formations with great effect; but no Cavalry Officers could await the attack of an Enemy in any such position.—The Close Column, in Cavalry, is (as Sir David Dundas expresses it,) “a Situation for the Assembling more than for the Movement of Troops, to conceal numbers from the knowledge of the Adversary, and to extend in whatever direction the circumstance of the moment may require; which, till it is nearly accomplished, cannot be obvious to an opposite enemy.” In short, to compress a Body of Troops into as small a compass as

possible, whether for concealment, cover from the fire of Artillery, or other casual circumstances.

For all these objects the Close Column of Half-squadrons is undoubtedly the best adapted; all the Ranks being closed up to half a horse's length, without any impediment from Officers, &c. either in front or rear. There are many circumstances however, in which the Close Column of Squadrons may be useful and important; and, as the arrangement of the Squadron in all its parts remains wholly unchanged, the formation is very simple and easy. Still however, with the large intervals necessary for the Squadron Officer in front, and the Serrefiles, &c. in the rear of their respective Squadrons, it can scarcely with propriety be called a Close Column, except for the convenience of the term.

Columns of *Half* and *Quarter Distance* are also formed occasionally, for the purpose of Inspections, Musters, &c. at the discretion of the Commanding Officer; but are wholly useless, as connected with Field Movements.

The Open Column { of Squadrons,  
of Half-squadrons, or  
of Divisions.

The Double Column { of Half-Squadrons, or  
of Divisions.

And, The Close Column { of Squadrons, or  
of Half-squadrons,

are the only Columns necessary for, or adapted to the Field.\*

The Formation of a Regiment in Line having been already shown, its breaking into Open Column is effected at once (either to the right or left,) by the wheel†

\* The Movement by Threes, although in all respects one of the most essential, I do not class with the Column Formations, as it merely supplies the place of the Facings in Infantry.

† By the term "Wheel," is always understood an Angle of 90 Degrees, or the fourth part of a Circle; bringing the Division wheel'd exactly square, or at right angles to its previous position. Thus the "*Half-wheel*," signifies an Angle of 45 Degrees; and the "*Quarter-wheel*," an Angle of 22½ Degrees. The "*Wheel About*," completes the Half Circle.

of Squadrons, of Half-squadrons, or of Divisions.....*PLATE 5.—A.* And a Close Column is formed, to either flank, in the most simple manner, by the Squadrons or Half-squadrons so wheel'd, closing up to the front. *PLATE 5.—B 1 & 2.*

Close Columns of Divisions are never used.

When an Open Column of Half-squadrons or Divisions is formed, the Regimental Sergeant Major is placed at one horse's length distance, fronting the Officer on the Pivot-flank of the leading Half-squadron or Division; himself and the Officer raising their Swords to the height of the cheek bone; the Adjutant, at one horse's length in rear of him, is enabled to give the line, and correct the dressing of the Pivot-flank.\*—*PLATE 5.—B 2.* The Half-squadron Officers or Division Leaders, having caught their proper intervals, will look at once to the front, and cover correctly in column: and, whether they remain halted, or are put in motion, at whatever pace, they must not for a moment lose sight of these two essential objects; viz. the Maintenance of their Intervals, and the correctness of their Covering. The Half-squadron Officers and Division Leaders are *not* to look to the *dressing of the Ranks* in Column; the Squadron Officer is to attend to this point, and to watch the correctness of the intervals.

The same mode of dressing the Pivot-flank, and attention to covering will be observed in the Close Column of Half-squadrons.

Squadrons, being integral bodies in all situations, whether in Line or in Column, should always be dressed to their own centre: therefore in a Column of Squadrons when halted, the Regimental Sergeant Major and Adjutant place themselves in front of the Officer Commanding the leading Squadron, and by raising their Swords, give the line for the remaining Squadron Officers to cover upon. *PLATE 5.—B 1.*

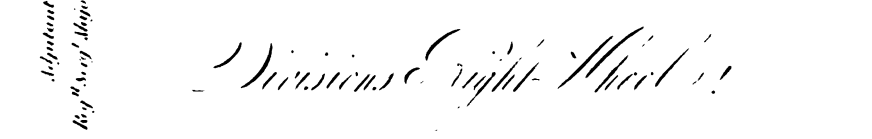
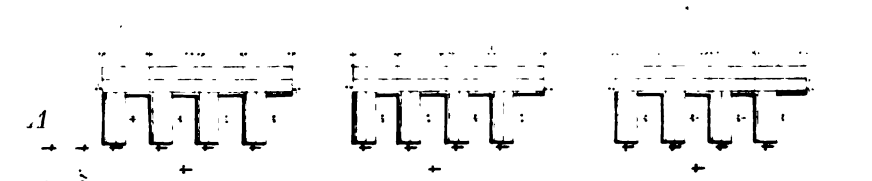
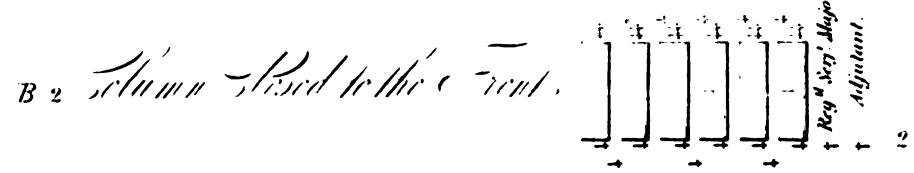
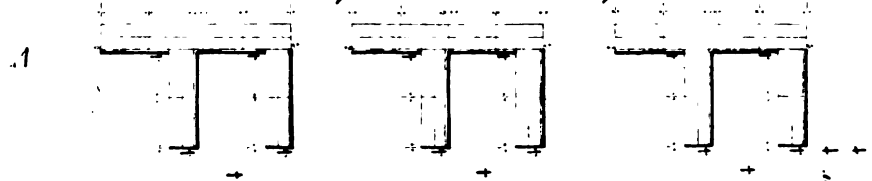
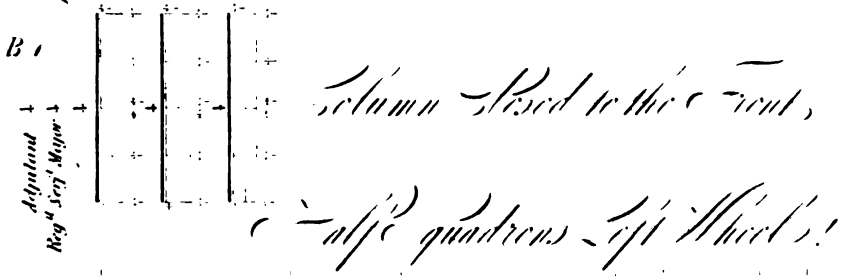
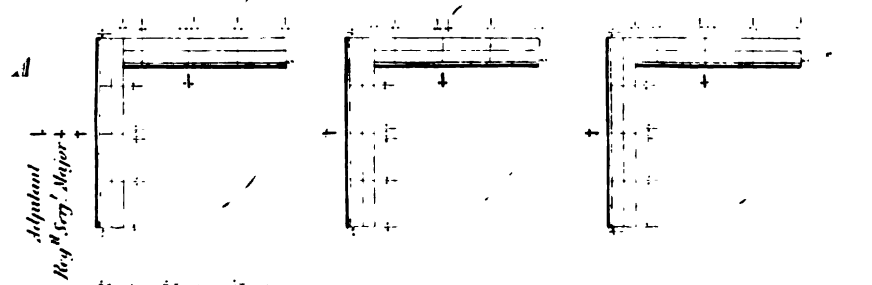
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\* "*The Pivot-flank*" of a Column is that to which (if an Open Column,) it could wheel into Line to its proper front. The opposite one is termed, "*The Reverse Flank.*" Whenever a Column is formed *Right in Front*, the *Left* is the *Pivot-flank*; and when formed *Left in Front*, the *Right* is the *Pivot-flank*.



Plate 5

# Quadrants Eight Sheet



# Divisions Eight Sheet

When any formation is completed, as soon as the Commanding Officer sees the Regiment dressed and steady, in the new position, he gives the word,

Eyes front!

Upon which all Officers who have aided the dressing, resume their posts, whether in Line, Column, &c. and Slope Swords. The Posts of the Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major are the same in line, as stated in the Parade Movements, viz. the Adjutant at one horse's length from the Half-squadron Officer on the right Flank of the Regiment, and the Regimental Sergeant Major covering him.

In Open or in Close Column, the Adjutant is on the Pivot-flank of the leading Division of the Column, at one horse's length from the Officer; and the Regimental Sergeant Major at one horse's length from the Reverse Flank of the leading Division.\*

---

## CLOSE COLUMN.

---

Besides the simple formation of the Close Column to either flank, by the Wheel from the Line, other formations are necessary, to the Front or Rear; on a Flank, or on a central Squadron or Half-squadron.

In Squadrons, the operation is simple, every individual retaining his relative situation throughout the movement (which is also to be strictly observed in all Squadron Movements). Two illustrations of the formation of a Close Column of Squadrons will suffice, as the principle and practise will be the same in all, differing only as to the Squadron upon which the Close Column is to be formed; and in the Column being Right or Left in front.

---

\* The Posts of the Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major, in Central Movements and Formations, will be explained in the directions for those Manœuvres.

1. Close Column of Squadrons, Right in front, upon the Centre Squadron!

This Caution being given, and repeated by the Squadron Officers, the Commanding Officer gives the word,

Threes inwards!

The Squadron Officers, in taking up this word, vary it according to the position of their Squadrons in Line; those commanding *the Right* and *Right-centre Squadrons* (in a Regiment of the full strength), give the word,

Threes Left!

and those commanding *the Left* and *Left-centre Squadrons*,

Threes Right!

The Centre Squadron stands fast.

At the word, "*Threes inwards!*" the Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major place themselves in front of the Officer commanding the Centre Squadron, leaving sufficient space for the Squadron or Squadrons which are to form in front of it: themselves and the Squadron Officers raising their Swords.

The Pace is sounded, and word given,

March!

The Squadron Officers give the word,

Right Incline! to their leading Threes; and,

Forward!

When the distance in Column is gained, the Threes keeping well up, and moving parallel to the Squadron formed.

When the Squadron Officer finds himself in the line of covering, given by the Adjutant and Sergeant Major, he will give the words,

Halt! Front!

himself covering quickly upon the fronts given, and raising his Sword.

When the Column is formed and steady, the Commanding Officer gives the word,

Eyes Front!

PLATE 6.—A.

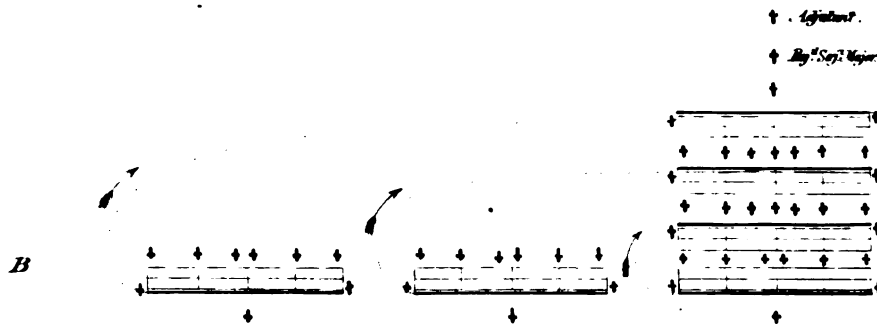
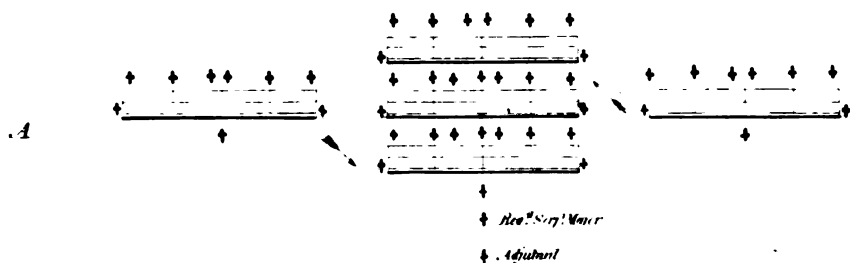
The Squadron Officers Slope Swords, and the Adjutant and Serjeant Major retire to their posts in Column.





Plate 6

Back Column of Squads  
 Fight in front, when the Left Squadron.



Front Column of Squads  
 Fight in front, when in the rear  
 when the Left Squadron.

2. Close Column of Squadrons, *Right in front, facing to the rear*, on the *Left Squadron*!

This Caution being distinctly given and repeated, is followed by the word,  
Threes Right!

The Adjutant and Sergeant Major mark the Centre; the pace is sounded, and  
March!

The Squadron Officers immediately give the word,  
Left Shoulders!

When the leading Threes of their Squadrons have countermarch'd,  
Forward! and  
Halt!

as soon as they find themselves in the line of covering.

PLATE 6.—B.

---

N. B....If a Close Column, *facing to the rear*, be formed on a central Squadron, that Squadron will make the Countermarch by threes *to the Right*, if the Column is to be formed *right in front*: and, if *left in front, to the Left*.

---

The formation of a Close Column of Half-squadrons may, in like manner, be effected, to the front or rear, upon any given Half-squadron of the Line: for Example,—

1. Close Column,\* *Right in front*, on the *Right Half-squadron*!

This Caution being given by the Commanding Officer, and repeated, the word follows,

Threes Right!

Upon which the Adjutant and Sergeant Major mark the Pivot-flank of the intended Column; (i. e. the *left flank*, as it is to be *right in front*;) the Half-

---

\* Close Column, unless otherwise specified, is generally understood to be of Half-squadrons.

squadron Officers place themselves on *the Left of the leading threes* of their respective Half-squadrons; and immediately upon the word

**March!**

they give the word,

**Right Incline!**

to clear the head of each Half-squadron from the rear of the one preceding it, and

**Forward!**

when that object is attained. Each Half-squadron Officer in succession, as soon as he finds himself in the line of covering (marked by the Adjutant and Sergeant Major,) halts, and allows his Half-squadron to pass on in his rear; and, just as the rear threes approach him, gives the words,

**Halt! Front!**

**Eyes Left!**

himself covering correctly in column, and the Squadron Officers seeing that the Ranks are dressed.

The Serrefiles and Troop Sergeant Majors keep their relative stations, on the flank of the rear rank threes, until they halt in Column, when they will move briskly forward, and form on the Reserve Flank; Officers in line with the front rank, and Troop Sergeant Majors with the rear rank.

When the Column is formed and steady, the word is given,

**Eyes front!**

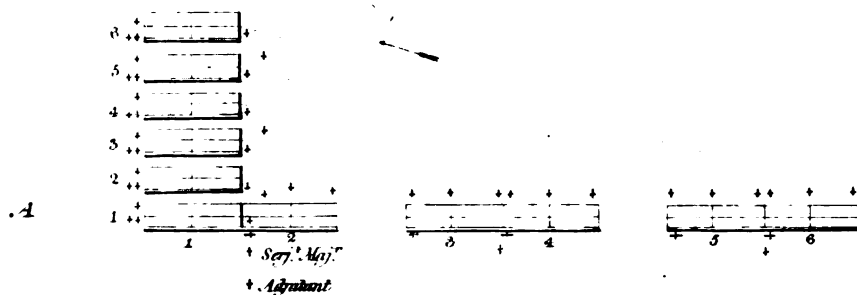
*PLATE 7.—A.*

Upon a Caution being given (which always describes the formation intended,) it is essential that Half-squadron Officers should bear in mind their own relative position to the Pivot-flank of the Column to be formed. In the instance No. 1, the Pivot-flank being *the nearest to them*, each Half-squadron Officer would *halt upon it*, and allow his Half-squadron to proceed to a distance equal to its own front. But, should the Pivot-flank of the intended Column be *the farthest from them*, each Half-squadron Officer would move on with *the leading threes of the*

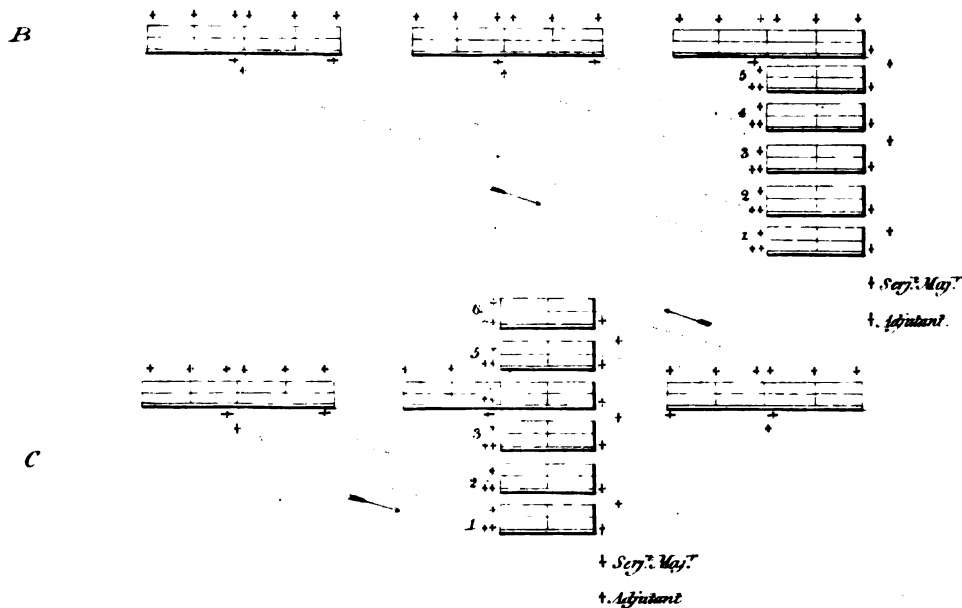


*Date*

1. *Place Column Eight in front of the Right Half Squadron!*



2. *Place Column Eight in front of the Left Half Squadron!*



3. *Place Column Eight in front of N. 4!*

*front rank* of his Half-squadron, till within about two horses' length of the Pivot-flank; he would then dash briskly forward and cover; and give the words, Halt! Front! to his Half-squadron, when they had approached to half a horse's length, to give room for the threes to wheel up.

---

2. Close Column, *Right in front*, on the *Left* Half-squadron! (Caution repeated),

Threes Left!

The Pivot-flank (*i. e. the Left*) being marked, and the Half-squadron Officers having placed themselves *on the flank of the leading threes of the front rank* of their respective Half-squadrons, on the word,

March!

they give the word,

Right incline! and

Forward!

when the leading threes are clear of the Half-squadron in front: and, when about two horses' length from the Pivot-flank, will ride forward, take up the covering, and give the words,

Halt! Front! Eyes left! as before directed.

The Column, when formed, receives the word,

Eyes front!

PLATE 7.—B.

---

3. Close Column, *Right in front*, on No. 4!

Threes inwards!

The Pivot-flank is marked, (*on the left of No. 4,*) and the Half-squadron Officers place themselves quickly *on the flank of their front rank leading threes*: on the word,

March! they give the words,

Right incline! and Forward! as before; those *from the left* halting, when in the line of covering on the Pivot-flank, and allowing their Half-

squadrons to pass them as directed: and those *from the Right* moving on with their leading threes to about two horses' length from the Pivot-flank, riding forward to cover, and giving the words,

Halt! Front! Eyes left!

All Half-squadron Officers raising their Swords with the Adjutant and Sergeant Major, until they receive the word,

Eyes front!

PLATE 7.—C.

4. Close Column, *Right* in front, *facing to the rear*, on the *Right* Half-squadron!

Threes Left!

The Pivot-flank of the Column is marked, and Half-squadron Officers move to the flanks of their leading threes; on the word,

March! they give the words,

Left Shoulders! and

Forward!

when countermarched into the new direction, they then lead on their Half-squadrons, as before explained, upon the Pivot-flank of the Column, take up the covering, and give the words,

Halt! Front! Eyes Left!

PLATE 8.—A.

5. Close Column, *Right* in front, *facing to the rear*, on the *Left* Half-squadron!

Threes Right!

This Formation is precisely similar to the last, except, that the Column is formed *in the rear*, instead of *in front* of the Line. On the word

March! the Half-squadron Officers give the words,

Left Shoulders!

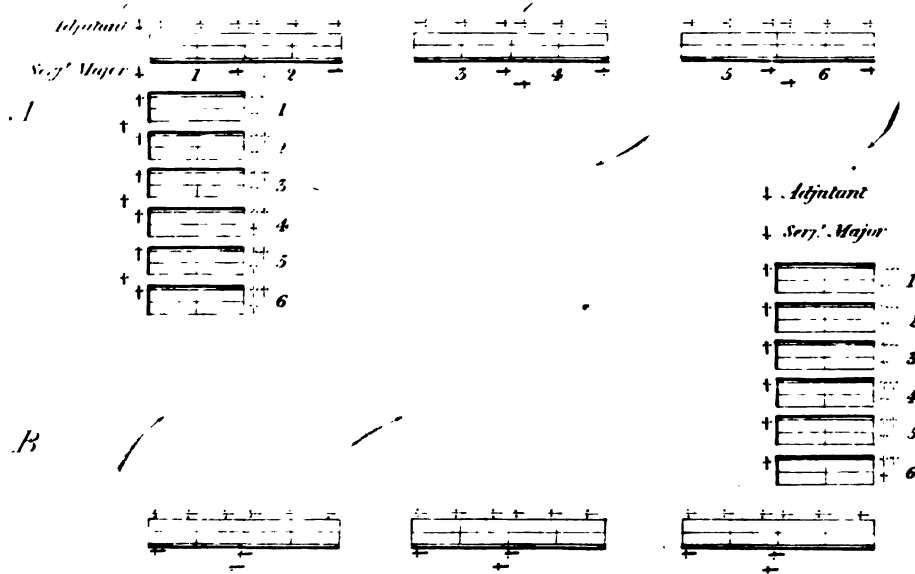
and countermarch their Half-squadrons to the rear. The Pivot-flank being the



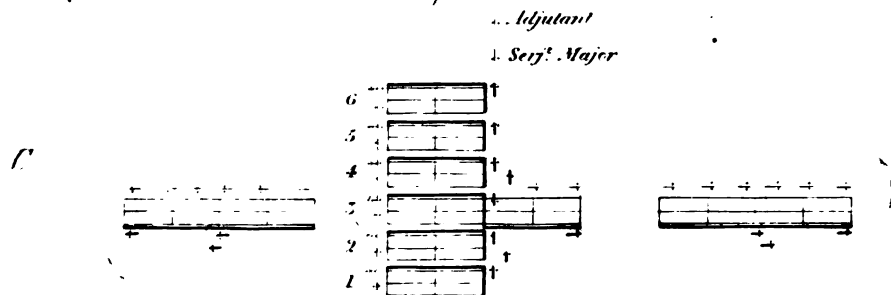


Page 8

4. *Plac. Column Eight in Front -  
Facing to the rear on the Right Half Quadrant.*



5. *Plac. Column Eight in Front - Facing to the rear on the Left Half Quadrant.*



6. *Plac. Column Eight in Front - Facing to the rear on No. 3.*

nearest in this instance, they will halt upon it, cover, and let their Half-squadrons pass them; and, as the rear threes come up, give the words,

Halt! Front! Eyes Left!

PLATE 8.—B.

6. Close Column, *Left* in front, *facing to the rear*, on No. 3.

Threes Outwards!

In taking up this word, the Officer commanding the Right Squadron, gives,

Threes Right! the remaining Squadron Officers,

Threes Left! and the Half-squadron Officer commanding No. 3, gives,

No. 3. Threes Right and Left!

The Front-rank threes *to the Right*, the Rear-rank threes *to the Left*: placing himself on the flank of his Front-rank threes; on the word,

March!

No. 3 will thus countermarch on its own ground, the Half-squadron Officer moving round with his leading threes; and, on arriving at the Pivot-flank, he will give the words,

Halt! Front! Eyes Right!

on which both Ranks will wheel up to their proper front, cover, and dress.

The remaining Half-squadrons will bring their Right Shoulders forward!

Nos. 1 and 2 will countermarch *to the front*, and enter the Column on the Reverse-flank. Nos. 4, 5, and 6, will countermarch *to the rear*, and enter the Column on the Pivot-flank, in the same manner as directed in the Formation No. 3.

PLATE 8.—C.

In Close Column the Commanding Officer gives all Words of Command, which are not to be repeated as in other circumstances.

A Close Column, when formed, can *March to the front*; (and, if required, *Incline* right or left on the March;) or *to either Flank*, by the wheel of threes

or to the *Rear*, by threes About. But, in the Formation and Movements of a Close Column, the Pace should not exceed a Trot.\*

A Close Column may *reverse its front* by the Countermarch of the Squadrons, or Half-squadrons of which it is composed. The most simple and best mode of effecting this is *by Ranks, threes right and left*, as directed in the formation No. 6. The Front-rank wheeling by threes to the *Reverse-flank*, and the Rear-rank by threes to the *Pivot-flank* of the Column.

In a Close Column of Squadrons, the Officers and Troop Sergeant Majors retain their relative positions in the flanks of threes; moving round with them, until the Countermarch is complete.

In a Close Column of Half-squadrons, the Caution being given,

The Column will Countermarch! and the word,

Threes Right and Left!

The Adjutant and Sergeant Major mark the new Pivot-flank. The Half-squadron Officers *turn outwards about*, and Cover; moving up in line with the Rear-rank: on the word March! both ranks immediately bring the Shoulders forward, and Countermarch; and, when the leading threes of the Front-rank are within half a horse's length of the Officer, he gives the words,

Halt! Front!

Eyes  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Right!} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Left!} \end{array} \right\}$  according to the front of the Column.

---

A Close Column may change front to the Right or Left, by wheeling the Squadron or Half-squadron in front to the flank ordered; and the remaining ones by threes outwards; bring the right, or left Shoulders forward, till they cover, and move up to Close Column. For Example:

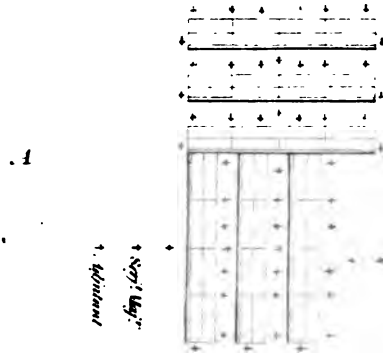
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\* If circumstances should require a *gallop*, the Column must necessarily open out, and close up again on the Halt, making it loose and irregular, with risk of injury to horses.

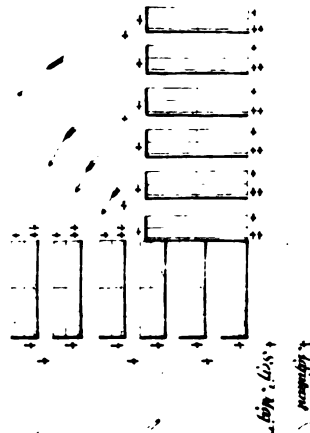


*Plate 9*

*Please, change front to the Right!*



**B**



*Please, change front to Left!*

In a Close Column of Squadrons, right in front;

The Column will change front to the right!

Right Squadron, Right Wheel!

Remaining Squadrons, Threes Left!

March!

The Right Squadron is wheel'd and halted, the remaining Squadrons bring the Left Shoulders forward at once into the new direction; and as each Squadron Officer finds himself opposite the Centre of the preceding Squadron, he gives the words,

Front!

Forward!

Halt! Dress!

*PLATE 9.—A.*

The operation is the same in a Close Column of Half-squadrons. If the Wheel of the Half-squadron in front be made to the Reverse-flank, and that of threes to the Pivot-flank, the Half-squadron Officers bring the Shoulders forward, and lead on till they cover on the New Pivot, then

Front!

Forward!

Halt! Dress!

*PLATE 9.—B.*

If the Wheel of the front Half-squadron be made to the Pivot-flank, and that of Threes to the Reverse, no shifting of leaders is required, the senior Subaltern will conduct the flank movement; the words of Command,

Front!

Forward!

Halt! Dress!

being given by the Half-squadron Officer.

## DEPLOYMENT OF THE CLOSE COLUMN.

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THE Close Column of Cavalry has been shown to be a Formation rather for convenience or security than for the active purposes of war; it is essential therefore to find the readiest method of changing this position, as circumstances may require, for one more adapted to active operations: the Deployment of a Close Column into Line is a movement of the greatest importance, and should be executed with rapidity and precision.

In a Close Column of Squadrons this operation is simple; no alteration being made in the detail, nor in the relative positions of the Officers. Example: (from a Close Column of Squadrons, right in front,)

Deploy on the Right Squadron!

The Right Squadron stands fast, the Squadron Officer turning round to face the Centre of his Squadron, and the Half-squadron Officers facing the outward flank files; the Adjutant places himself in front of and facing *the centre of the Right Half-squadron*, and the Regimental Sergeant Major *facing the centre of the Left Half-squadron*. The Adjutant dresses the Squadron Officer, Sergeant Major, and Left Half-squadron Officer in the intended Line, who must afterwards remain perfectly steady, all raising their Swords. The Right Half-squadron Officer dressing by them.\* The Commanding Officer gives the word,

Threes Left! and

March!

The remaining Squadrons (threes left,) move on in a direct line, led by the Left Half-squadron Officers, until the Squadron Officer finds that the proper interval is obtained; when he will give the words,

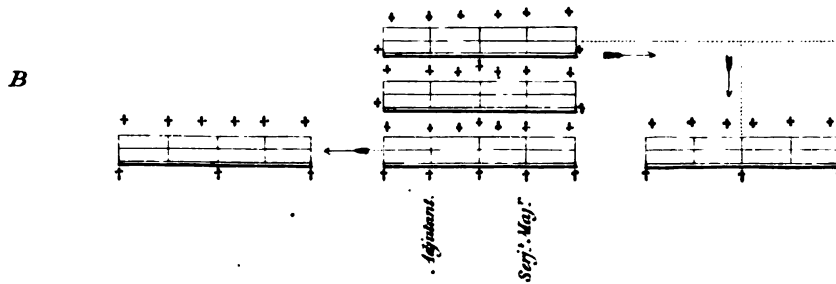
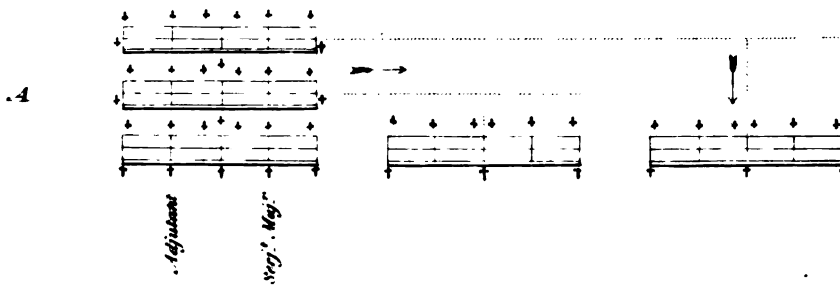
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\* These points have been fixed upon for the Adjutant and Sergeant Major to regulate the Alignment, as being generally the most convenient for that purpose, especially in Central Formations; as will be exemplified.





*Deploy on the Right Squadron!*



*Deploy on the Centre Squadron!*

Front!

Forward!

and, just before he arrives on the *Alignement*,

Halt! Dress!

turning quickly about, to face the Centre of his Squadron, and catching up his dressing in the Line given by the Officers of the Right Squadron: the Half-squadron Officers, in like manner, immediately move out to face the outward flank files of the Squadron, and dress to their Left; the Squadron moves up to the Officers, dressing at once to its own Centre. PLATE 10.—A.

In Deployments upon the Rear, or upon a Central Squadron of the Column, the operation is precisely the same, except as to the Squadron named in the Caution; the Adjutant and Sergeant Major place themselves as before, and determine the *alignement* upon the Squadron in front; at the word,

Threes outwards!

the Adjutant and Sergeant Major remain steady, the Front Squadron moves away to its place in Line, and the Squadron named in the Caution (as soon as its front is clear,) moves up to the ground it occupied: the Officers, facing their Squadron, are dressed by the Adjutant, and the remaining Squadrons, (Right and Left,) upon them. PLATE 10.—B.

The position of the Adjutant and Sergeant Major thus enabling them to correct any inaccuracy in the dressing on either flank.

The Deployment of a Close Column of Half-squadrons is effected upon the same principle as that of Squadrons, with some little variations as to detail—for Example—(from a Close Column of Half-squadrons Right in front,)

Deploy on the *front* Half-squadron!

The Officer commanding the Right Squadron immediately *fronts* the Non-commissioned Officer *on the Left flank*, and the Half-Squadron Officer the one *on the Right flank* of the front Half-squadron: the Adjutant facing the Centre, and the

Sergeant Major facing the point where the centre of the Left Half-squadron (of the Right Squadron) will stand: the word is given,

Threes Left!

upon which the remaining Squadron Officers gallop forward, and place themselves on the points *where the Centre of their Squadrons will stand*, Dressing by the Officers of the Right Squadron, and raising their Swords.

The Half-squadron Officers place themselves *on the flank of their Front-rank Threes*: the Pace is sounded, and at the word,

March!

the whole move off in a direct line, parallel to that of the intended Formation.

Each Half-squadron Officer, in succession, when he finds himself opposite to the point *where the Centre of his Half-squadron will stand in line*, will halt; his Half-squadron moving on until the Centre is abreast of him, when he will give the words,

Front!

Forward!

and, just before entering the Alignement,

Halt! Dress!

himself turning instantly about outwards, and facing the outward flank file—Dressing *to the Left*, (upon the Officers of the Right Squadron,) and raising his Sword. The Half-squadrons move up at once to their Officers, and Dress to the centre of the Squadron. When the formation is complete and steady, the word is given,

Eyes front!

PLATE 11.—A.

The Officers turn to their posts in Line; and the Adjutant, covered by the Sergeant Major takes post at one horse's length from the Right Flank of the Regiment.\*

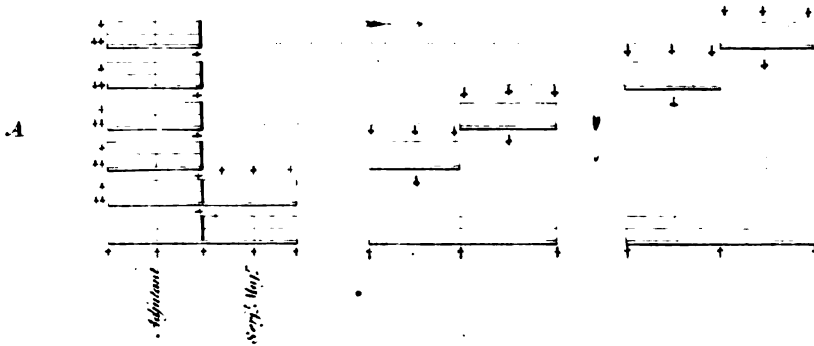
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\* When any Manœuvre is completed, the Adjutant and Sergeant Major will take post on the flank upon which the formation was made; until the succeeding one is ordered. If the formation should have been a central one, on the right of the Squadron by which the Line was dressed.

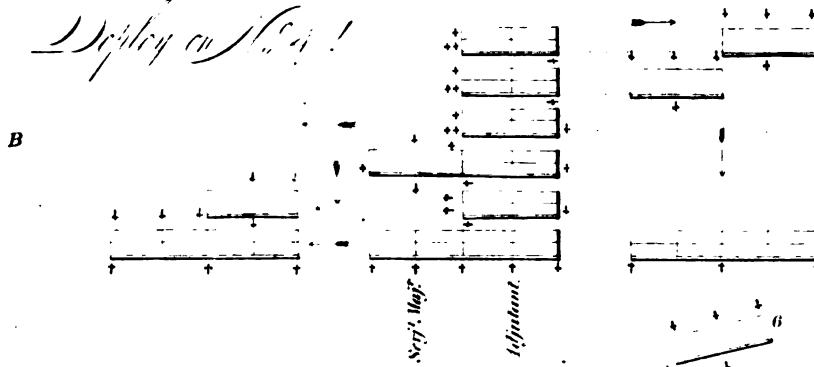


Plate 11

From Three Points, Right in front  
Deploy on the Line in half-Quadrants!



Deploy on the Line!



Deploy in an Oblique Line, Directed  
in the same half-Quadrants!

In Deployments on a central, or on the rear Half-squadron of the Column, the operation is precisely the same; except that, *in all Deployments to the Reverse-flank*, the senior Subaltern, placing himself on the flank of the Front-rank Threes, *leads* the Half-squadron out, parallel to the intended Line; the Half-Squadron Officer, on the March, taking his place *abreast of the Centre*, in time to give the words,

Front!

Forward!

Halt! Dress!

PLATE 11.—B.

the Subaltern resuming his post, in rear of the second file from the flank, immediately upon the halt.

Should it be required to Deploy in an oblique Line, either advanced or retired, the Officers in front of the Column must be dressed accordingly; and, the Squadron Officers conforming to the Base thus given, the Half-squadrons will of course move out parallel to the line taken up by them.

PLATE 11.—C.

Should a Close Column be required to form Line *to its Reverse-flank*, if the Column be *right in front*, the Caution is given,

Form Line *to the Right*!

the Pace is sounded, and upon the word,

March!

the Front Half-squadron, No. 1, *Wheels to the Right*! and upon it the Adjutant, Sergeant Major, &c. mark the Base, and the Squadron Officers gallop forward and front the point *where the Centre of each Squadron is to stand*.

The next Half-squadron Officer places himself in front of the Centre of his Half-squadron; and, as soon as the front is clear, gives the word,

March!

along the rear of the Half-squadron wheel'd; and, when the Right-flank of his Half-squadron has reached the Left Flank of the preceding one,

Right Wheel!

Forward! Halt! Dress!

Each Half-squadron Officer, in succession, moves to the front of his Half-squadron, as the preceding one moves off; and when that has gained an interval of *two horse's length*, gives the word,

No. . March!

The Left Half-squadrons wheeling *upon the flank* of the one preceding them (as above) and the Right Half-squadrons *after taking the proper Squadron interval*, so that their Left Flank may wheel up to the Squadron Officer.

The Serrefiles and Troop Sergeant Majors take their posts in rear of their respective Half-squadrons on the March.

PLATE 12.—A

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A Close Column may form Line to the rear in the same manner, by the front Half-squadron *wheeling about*, and the remaining ones *wheeling twice*.

PLATE 12.—B.

---

If a Close Column be required to form Line to its Pivot-flank, this is effected in the simplest manner by opening the Column to the front or rear, and Wheeling into Line.

If *to the front*, the caution is given,

The Column will open to the front!

March!

At the word, "March!" the front Half-squadron moves off at the pace ordered; and, as soon as the Half-squadron interval is gained, the next Half-squadron Officer gives the word,

No. 2. March!

Each in succession taking the proper intervals, and covering correctly to the front. The Commanding Officer orders the halt, just as the last interval is obtained.

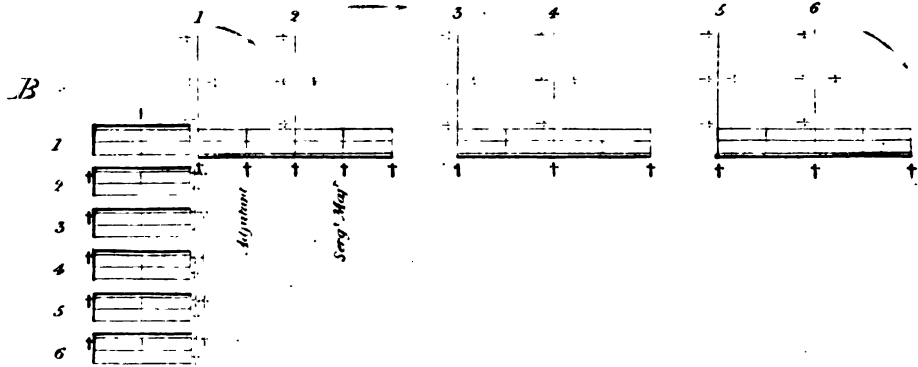
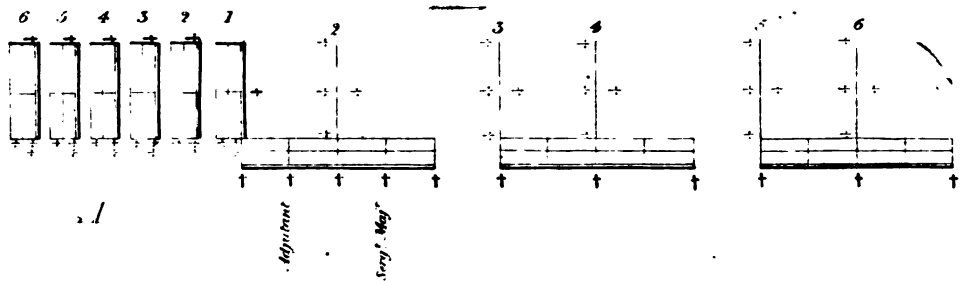
If a Close Column be opened *to the rear*, the operation is precisely the same, having put the whole *threes About*; or, if upon a Central Half-squadron, the Rear Half-squadrons being put *threes about*, and fronted upon the halt.





Plate 12

Form Line to the Reverse Tank!



Form Line to the Rear by the Reverse Tank!

## OPEN COLUMN.

---

THE Open Column is undoubtedly one of the most important formations of Cavalry; as it is the most convenient and effective for the movement of large bodies in the presence of an Enemy.

The formation of an Open Column, either to the right or left, by the wheel from the Line, has been already shown. In an *Open Column of Squadrons*, (the dressing of each Squadron being at all times to its own centre, and intervals occurring between each in Line,) the exact covering of the Pivot-flank is unnecessary, if the correct intervals in Column be preserved. The Squadron Officers will cover and lead upon the centre of the preceding Squadrons; and, if wheeled into Line, the dressing is easily effected upon the leading Squadron, or upon any one ordered by the Commanding Officer.

In *Half-squadrons or Divisions*, to preserve the perfect order which is essential for all movements in Open Column, it is necessary that the strictest attention should be paid to the preservation of the Intervals, *as taken from the Line*, and to the correct covering of the Pivot-flank. These duties are entrusted to the Half-squadron Officers and Division Leaders, who are posted on the Pivot-flank (without covering Sergeants,) that they may catch up and maintain the covering in Column with facility, and be able clearly to judge of their proper Intervals. The whole attention of the Officers so posted, in Open Column, is to be given to these two objects: the Non-commissioned Officers on the flanks will conform strictly to their movements; and the Squadron Officers will attend generally to the dressing of their Half-squadrons or Divisions to the Pivot-flank.

---

The formation of an Open Column, to the front or rear, upon any given Half-squadron of the Line, is performed upon the same principles as those laid down

for the Close Column; the practise differing only as regards the Interval to be taken: for Example,—

1. Open Column, right in front, on the Right Half-squadron!

Threes Right!

The Half-squadron Officers placing themselves immediately on the flank of their leading front-rank threes; the Adjutant and Sergeant Major marking the Pivot-flank of the intended Column, (on the left flank of the Right Half-squadron,) on the word,

March!

the Half-squadron Officers give the word,

Left Shoulders! and

Forward!

When in the direction of their Post in Column, moving nearly parallel, according to their interval, (whether a Squadron or a Half-squadron Interval,) to the Half-squadron which is to stand in front of them in Column.

The Squadron Officers gallop forward between their Half-Squadrons, and place themselves at the points *where the flank of their leading Half-squadrons will stand*; (i. e. the point which would be the Centre of the Squadron if wheeled into Line;) having caught up the Interval and Covering, they will rein back half a horse's length, *fronting the flank of their leading Half-squadron*, to allow room for the Half-squadron Officer to cover in Column. PLATE 13.—A.

When the Column is formed and steady, at the word,

Eyes front!

the Squadron Officers take post about midway between their Half-squadrons, at two horses' length from the Pivot-flank of the Column.

2. Open Column, right in front, on the Left Half-squadron!

Threes Left!

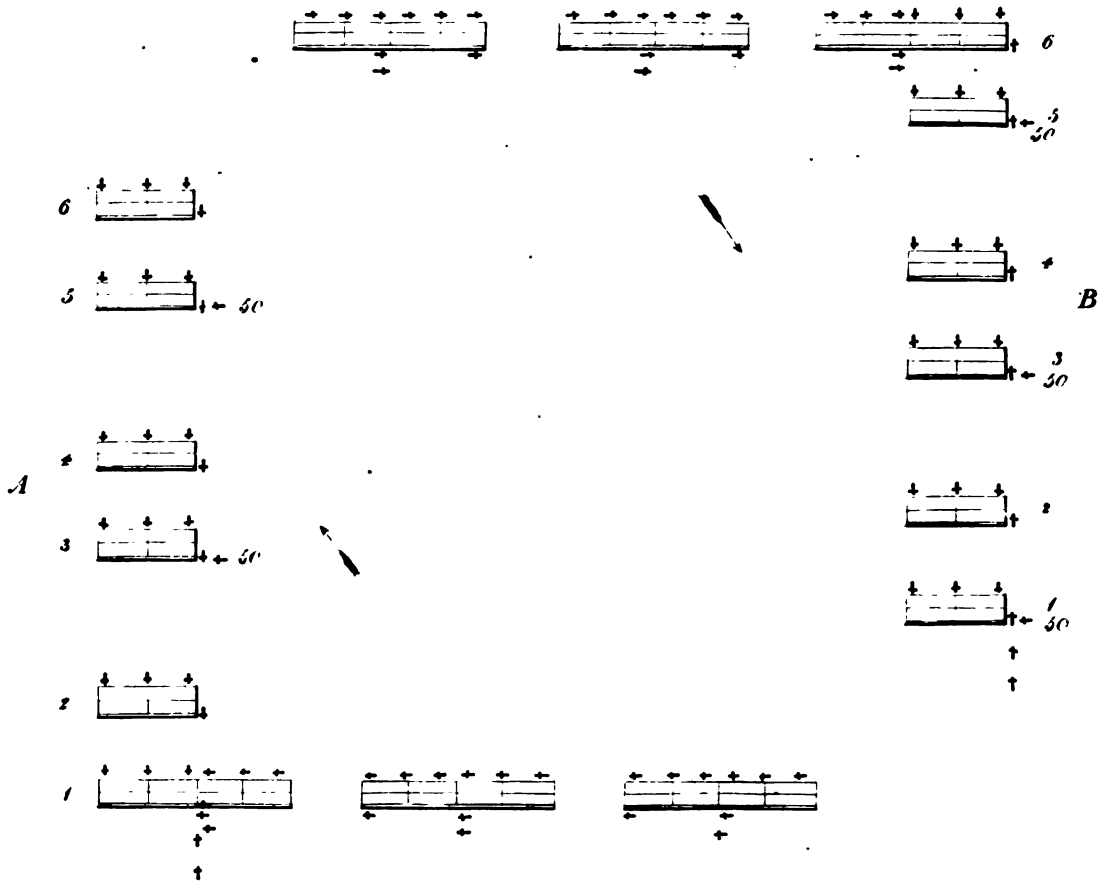
This movement is precisely similar to the last, with the exception of the Column being formed in front instead of in the rear of the Half-squadron named.

PLATE 13.—B.



Plate 13

Open Column Right in Front on the Right Half Quadrant!



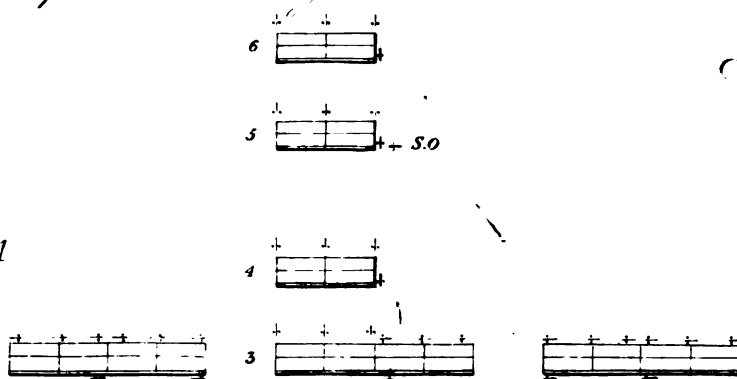
Open Column Right in Front on the Right Half Quadrant!



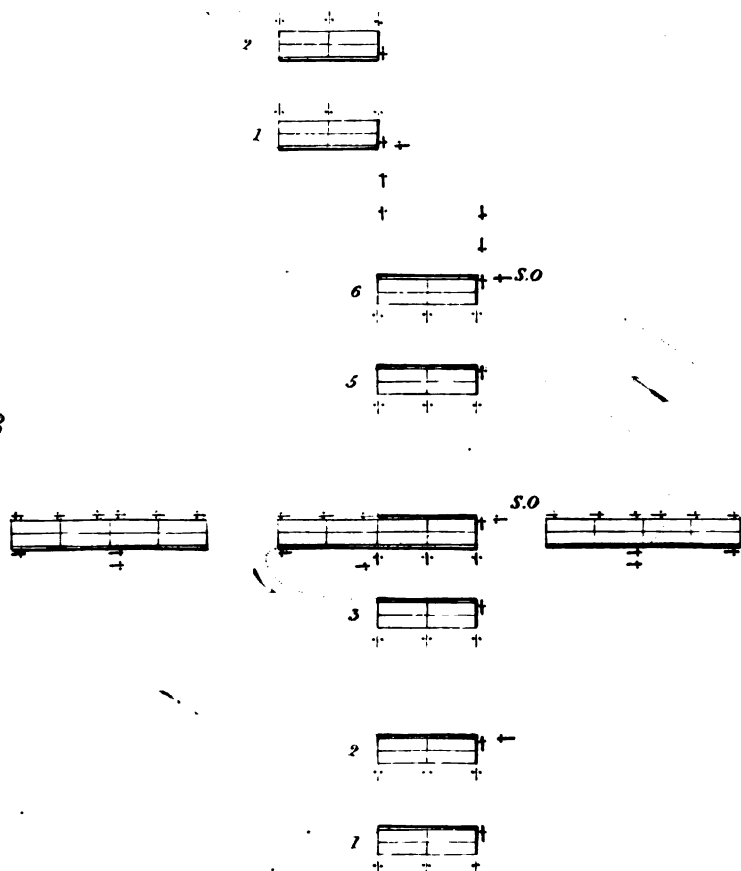
3. *Open Column right in Front on N° 3!*

*Elate 14.*

*A*



*B*



4. *Open Column Left in front facing to the rear on N° 4!*

N. B.....When the Line is put threes right or left, after the Caution to form either Close or Open Column; the Half-squadron named (upon which the formation is to be made,) will *move forward*, or *rein back* rather more than a horse's length, to admit of the other Half-squadron, which is to move either to the front or rear in Column, disengaging more readily.

---

3. Open Column, right in front, on No. 3!

Threes inwards!

Precisely the same in principle and detail as the two last formations.

PLATE 14.—A.

---

4. Open Column, left in front, facing to the rear, on No. 4!

Threes Outwards!

In taking up this word, the Squadron Officers on the right give the word, "*threes right!*" and those on the left of the Half-squadron named, "*threes left!*" The Half-squadron Officer Commanding No. 4, will give the words,

No. 4. Threes right and left!

On the word,

March!

the Officer commanding No. 4 will turn outwards about, and cover upon the Sergeant Major and Adjutant; while his Half-squadron (*front-rank threes to the right, rear-rank threes to the left,*) countermarch and front upon his left. The remaining Half-squadrons bring their *right shoulders forward*, and proceed as in the formations above described. The Half-squadron Officers *from the right*, leading their Half-squadrons *to the Pivot-flank*; and those *from the left, halting on the Pivot-flank*, while their Half-squadrons pass them, to the distance of their own front.

PLATE 14.—B.

---

The formation and movements of *the Open Column of Divisions* are precisely similar to those of the Open Column of Half-squadrons: the Half-squadron



Officers Commanding the Flank Divisions of the Squadron, and the Senior Sub-alterns taking command of the Right-Centre and Left-Centre Divisions.

---

An Open Column may change front to the right or left upon any Squadron, Half-squadron, or Division of which it is composed: for Example,—

In Open Column of Half-squadrons, right in front;

The Column will change front to the Left, on No. 3!

Threes Outwards!

In taking up this word, the Squadron Officers *in front of No. 3*, give the word, “threes left!” and those *in rear of No. 3*, “threes right!” The Half-squadron Officer commanding No. 3, wheels that Half-squadron to the Left: the Adjutant and Sergeant Major mark the Pivot-flank; and, on the word

March!

the Squadron Officers gallop forward *to their central points in Column*, as before described; and the Half-squadron Officers bring *the right shoulders forward*, (preserving their intervals,) to the places of their Half-squadrons in Column.

PLATE 15.—A.

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## COUNTERMARCH.

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An Open Column may reverse its front, in the same manner as stated for the Close Column, by the countermarch of Ranks.

Threes Right and Left!—See page 30.

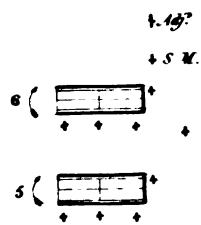
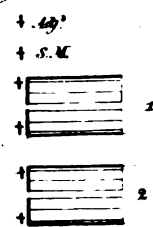
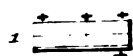
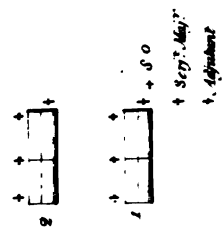
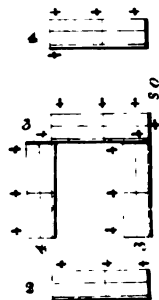
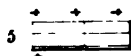
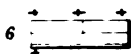
In Half-squadrons or Divisions, the Officers on the Pivot-flank *turn outwards about*, and cover to the intended front. The Front-rank threes always wheeling *to the Reverse Flank*; the Rear-rank threes *to the Pivot-flank* of the Column. Both Ranks countermarch immediately on the word,

March!

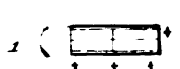


*Open Column, Right in front.  
Change front to Left on No. 3!!*

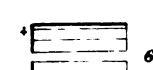
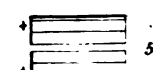
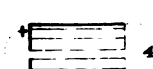
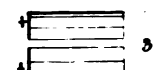
*Plate 15*



*B*



*C*



*Open Column, Right in front.  
Counter-march by the Front!!*

*Open Column, Left in front.  
Counter-march by the Reverse Front!!*

and, when the leading threes of the Front-rank are within half a horse's length of the Officer, he gives the words,

Halt! Front!

Eyes  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Right} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Left,} \end{array} \right\}$  according to the new Pivot. PLATE 15.—B.

N. B....In the Countermarch by Ranks of an Open Column; the Serrefiles, upon the word "*Threes Right and Left!*" will move to the Reverse-flank; and take their posts again in rear of their Half-squadrons or Divisions, when Countermarched.

---

An Open Column may also Countermarch by threes from the Reverse Flank: after the caution, on the word,

Threes  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Right} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Left,} \end{array} \right\}$

The Officers in the Pivot-flank *turn outwards about, and Cover* to the intended front, and on the word,

March!

the Half-squadrons or Divisions move off from the Reverse-flank, until the word is given (for the whole),

$\left. \begin{array}{c} \text{Right} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Left.} \end{array} \right\} \text{Shoulders!}$

and, Forward! when Countermarched:

when half a horse's length from the Pivot-flank, marked by the Officers, they receive from him the words,

Halt! Front!

Eyes  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Right} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Left!} \end{array} \right\}$

PLATE 15.—C.

An Open Column may change from the rear to the front, by Squadrons, Half-squadrons, or Divisions, in succession: for Example,—

In Open Column of Squadrons, right in front

Rear of the Column to the front!

Threes Outwards!

The Rear-squadron stands fast; each remaining Half-squadron turns *by threes outwards*, and, at the word,

March!

moves out in a direct line, *until the front of the Rear-squadron is cleared*, when they receive the words,

Halt! Front!

and the Rear-squadron, March!

as soon as this shall have passed the flanks of the nearest Half-squadrons, they will receive the word from the Squadron Officer,

Threes inwards! and

March!

in time to front and move forward with their proper interval: and so with each in succession; until the Change from rear to front is effected. *PLATE 16.—A.*

The operation is the same in an Open Column of Half-squadrons; by putting all the Divisions in front of the rear Half-squadron *threes outwards!* and closing in again successively, in the manner of the Half-squadrons, as above.

*PLATE 16.—B.*

In an Open Column of Divisions, (as also in Half-squadrons,) the Change may be made from Rear to Front, by moving out to the Pivot-flank, from the Rear in succession: for Example,—

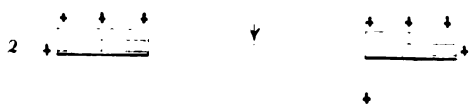
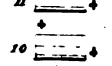
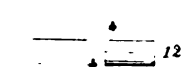
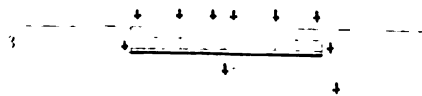
In an Open Column of Divisions, right in front;

Rear of the Column to the front!



# *Learning the Art of the Expert!* *Art of Quadratics*

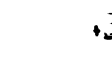
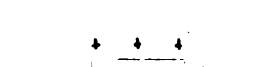
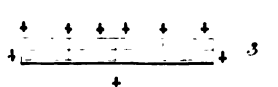
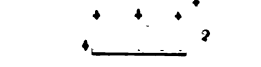
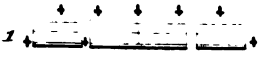
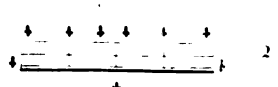
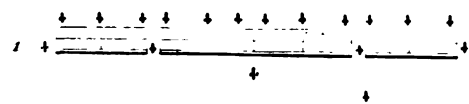
*Plate 10*  
*Key Divisions.*



*A*

*B*

*C*



**Rear Division, threes Left!**

**March!**

The Leader of the Rear Division halts himself at one horse's length from the Pivot-flank, until his Division has passed him clear of the Column; then gives the words,

**Front! Forward!**

**Eyes Right!**

The Leader of the next Division, *as that from the rear is passing his flank*, gives the word,

**Threes Left!**

**March!**

and, when a horse's length clear of the Column,

**Front! Forward!**

**Eyes Right!**

Being careful to take and preserve his proper interval. The others follow in succession, until the movement is completed.

*PLATE 16.—C.*

## FROM OPEN COLUMN TO FORM LINE.

To form Line to the Pivot-flank of an Open Column, it is only necessary to give the words,

**Halt!**

**Wheel into Line!**

**March!**

From Open Column of Squadrons, at the caution,

**" Wheel into Line!"**

the Half-squadron Officers on the Pivot-flank turn their horses to front the flank



of their Half-squadrons: the Adjutant and Regimental Sergeant Major place themselves fronting the points in the Centre of each Half-squadron of the leading Squadron of the Column, when in line: the Officers on the Pivot-flank dressing by them: on the word,

March!

the Squadron Officers lead the Wheel, and Halt their Squadrons in Line; themselves turning instantly about, and dressing in the line given by the Adjutant.

---

From Open Column of Half-squadrons, at the caution,

“Wheel into Line!”

each Squadron Officer immediately places himself fronting the flank of his leading Half-squadron: the Adjutant fronting the point *where the Centre of the leading Half-squadron of the Column* (whether right or left be in front) is to stand in Line; and the Sergeant Major fronting the point *where the Centre of the next Half-squadron to the Leading one* is to stand: the whole Wheel at the word,

March!

and are Halted by the Squadron Officers: the Half-squadron Officers immediately fronting the outward flank files, and taking up the Dressing from the flank which was the head of the Column.

---

## FROM OPEN COLUMN OF DIVISIONS

### TO WHEEL INTO LINE.

---

The Squadron Officers, upon the caution, front the flank of the second Division of their respective Squadrons; and the Half-squadron Officers *commanding the Rear Divisions* of each Squadron also front the flanks of their Divisions: the Adjutant places himself fronting the flanks of the leading Division,

and the Sergeant Major of the third Division of the Leading Squadron. The Subalterns in Command of the Central Divisions fall back to their posts in Rear; and the Half-squadron Officers commanding the front Divisions of each Squadron, front the point where the outward flank of their Division is to stand in Line. On the word,

March!

the whole wheel into Line.

From Open Column to form Line to the Reverse-flank; or, *by the Reverse-flank*, to the Rear; the operation is precisely the same as that already stated for the Close Column; except that no increase or alteration of Interval is required.

See PLATE 12.—A & B.

An Open Column may also form Line to the Front or Rear, upon a Front, Rear, or Central Half-squadron or Division of the Column: for Example,—from Open Column of Half-squadrons Right in Front:

1. Form Line to the front on the leading Half-squadron!

Half-squadrons, Left Half-wheel!

March!

The Half-squadron Officers give the word "Halt!" to their Half-squadrons, when the Half-wheel is made, and immediately place themselves in front of the Centre: the leading Half-squadron moves forward a distance equal to its depth: the Squadron Officers gallop forward, and place themselves where the centre of their Squadrons will stand in Line; on the word,

March!

the whole move in Echelon to their places in Line; and, when the right flank of each in succession is perpendicular to its point in the new formation, the Half-squadron Officer gives the words,

Left Shoulders!

Forward ! and

Halt ! Dress !

just upon entering the Line ; the Half-squadron Officer turning quickly *to front the outward flank-file*, and taking up the Dressing ; then remaining perfectly steady, until the word is given,

Eyes Front !

PLATE 17.—A.

From Open Column of Half-squadrons Left in front,

2. Form Line to the Rear, on the Rear Half-squadron !

Half-squadrons, three-quarters Right-about Wheel !

March !

The Half-squadron Officers, give the word, "*Halt !*" when the proper angle is obtained ; and immediately take post in front of the Centre : the Squadron Officers galloping forward to the central points of their Squadrons in Line. On the word,

March !

the whole proceed as in the former movement.

PLATE 17.—B.

3. From Open Column, Left in front,

Form Line to the front, on No. 4 !

Half-squadrons, right Half-wheel !

March !

The Half-squadron Officers, having halted the wheel, place themselves in front of the centre of their Half-squadrons : those *in front of No. 4*, immediately giving the word,

Threes About !

No. 4 moves forward a distance equal to its depth ; *and upon it* the Adjutant, Sergeant Major, &c. mark the intended Line : the Squadron Officers taking up their central points *on the Line so given* ; at the word,

March !

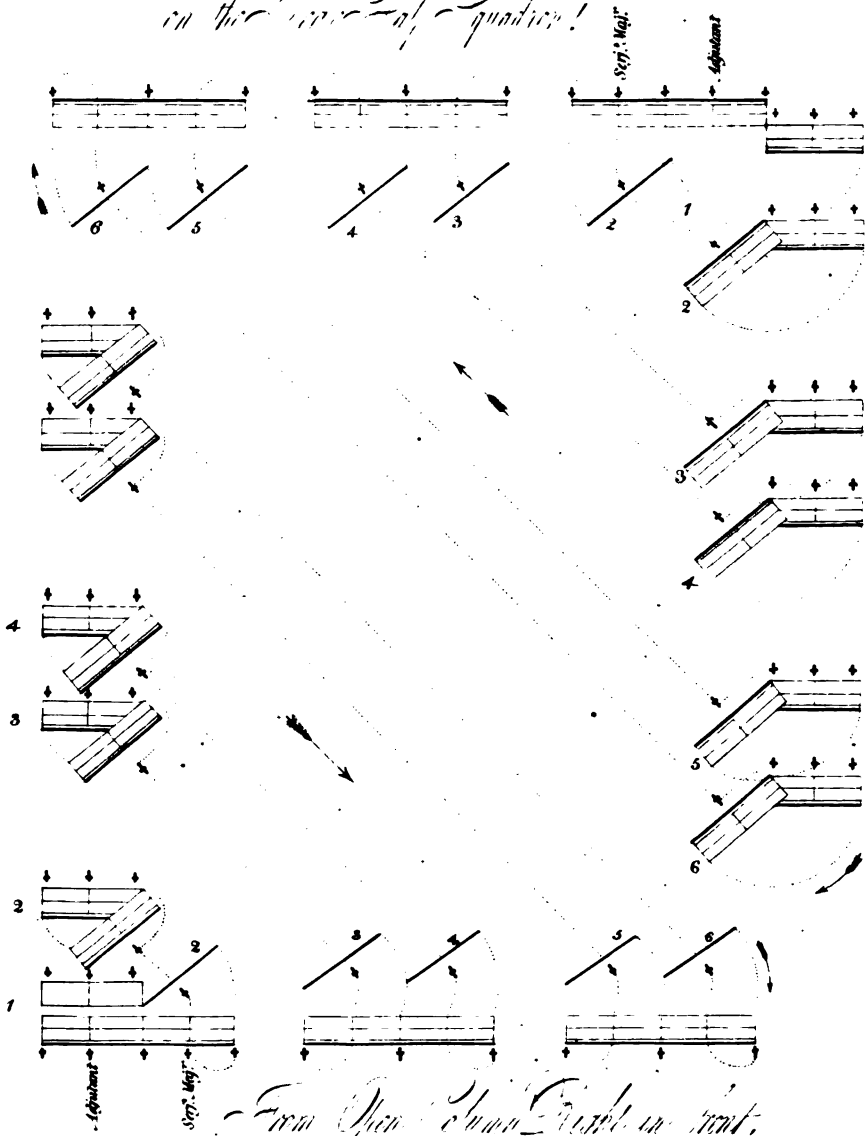


From Open House Left in front.

Plate 47

From Line to the Rear

on the Trans. Half Quadrant!



2

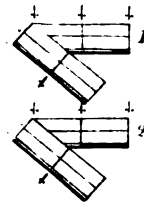
From Open House Right in front.

From Line to the Front

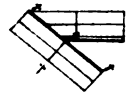
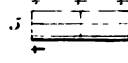
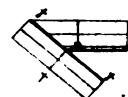
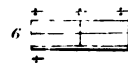
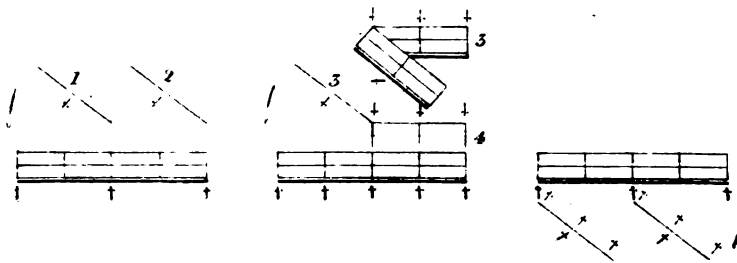
on the Trans. Half Quadrant!



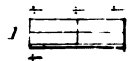
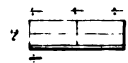
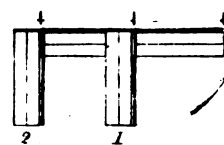
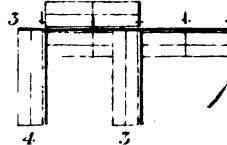
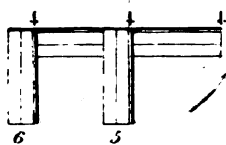
From *Open Column*. Left in front: Plate 18  
 3. From *Line to the Front on M.C.*



1



B



Open Column. Right in front. Range front to Left on M.C. & Wheel into Line!

the Rear Half-squadrons advance in Echelon to their points, as in the former movements: the Front Half-squadrons also (being threes about) move in Echelon to their places, *rear-rank in front*, receiving the words,

Right Shoulders!

Forward!

Halt! Front! Dress!

PLATE 18.—A.

The Mode in which an Open Column may form Line to the rear, *upon its Rear Half-squadron* has been shown, (Plate 17, B.) If it should be required to form Line to the Rear upon any Half-squadron or Division, except the Rear one, the best mode of effecting it is by Changing the front of the Column, upon that Half-squadron or Division, and wheeling into Line: Example,—

4. From Open Column, Right in front ;

Change Front to Left on No. 3,

Threes Outwards!

This operation is precisely the same as before explained (*Plate 15, A*). When the Column is formed, the word is given,

Wheel into Line!

March!

Halt! Dress!

PLATE 18.—B.

When an Open Column, a part of which has wheeled into a New Direction, is required to Halt, and form Line: if the Line *is to be formed to the Front*,\* (as respects the rear portion,) it may be effected as follows:—

5.——Column, Halt!

Wheel into Line! Rear Division front form!

March!

PLATE 19.—A.

\* Whether the Column can wheel into Line to the *front* or *rear*, must depend upon the hand to which the wheel is made into the new direction; and upon the Column being *right* or *left* in front.



If the Line is to be formed to the Rear, after the words,

6.——Column, Halt! the caution will be given,  
Rear Divisions into the New Alignement!

Threes  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Right} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Left,} \end{array} \right.$

March!

Upon which, the Rear Divisions will enter the New Column by a flank March;  
Halt, and cover upon the Pivot-flank; when they will receive the words,

Wheel into Line!

March!

Halt! Dress!

PLATE 19.—B.

## INCREASING OR DIMINISHING THE FRONT.

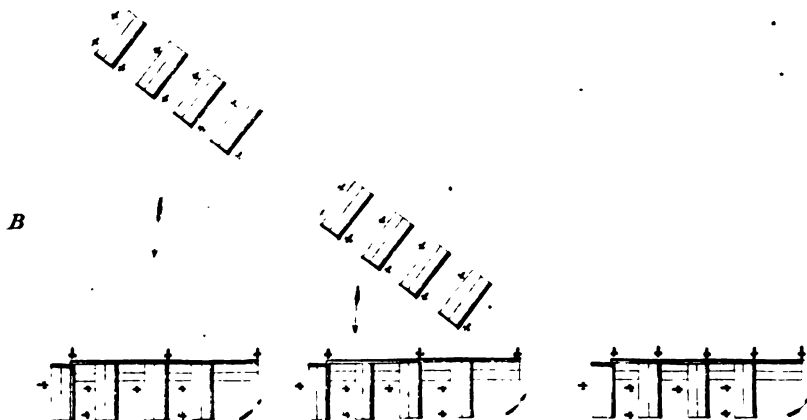
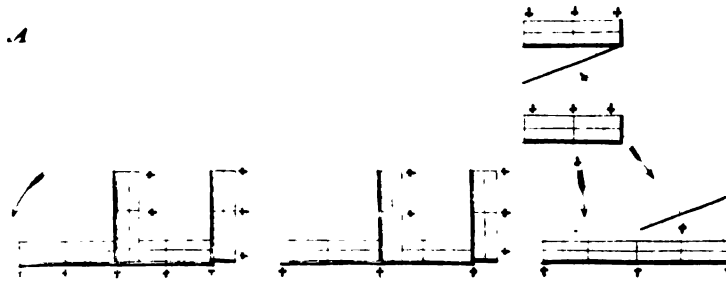
A Line, whether of greater or less extent, being the position in which Cavalry can best exert its powers: wherever the ground is sufficiently open, the Column of March should be such as would most readily form a line of one or more Squadrons to meet an attack upon the shortest notice.

A Regiment, or any portion of it, marching from one station to another, by public roads, and under circumstances where no attack or interruption is to be apprehended, usually march in file: having always an Advance Guard in front, and a Rear Guard in the rear, whose numbers are proportioned to the strength of the main body; but in flank Marches, &c. during the operations of a Campaign, and in the vicinity of an Enemy, the movement by threes, when the ground will admit of it, is in most respects preferable: in either case, when a body of Cavalry is entering upon a Plain, or any open ground suitable for its movements, the front



Plate 19

*Open Column, Right in Front;  
March into the 1. Rear Divisions, Front Form!*



*Open Column, Right in Front;  
Halt! Rear Divisions into the new Alignment!  
March into the!*

should immediately be increased to that of an efficient Column of Manceuvre. Thus, when a Regiment marching in file, or by threes, shall have arrived on a Plain, the word will be given,

Front form Divisions!

the Leading flanks moving steadily forward at the previous pace, and the Divisions forming briskly up, and Dressing to the Pivot-flank: this may be effected at once, if the ground be sufficiently open; or by Divisions in succession, as each arrives upon the open ground; the Division Leaders taking up their Intervals, and covering in Column.

If a further increase of front be required, the word will be given,

Front form Half-squadrons! and

(if the Column be right in front,)

Left Divisions, Left incline!

The Left Divisions will double their pace, inclining briskly to the Left, a distance equal to their own front, and then receive the word, from their Division Leaders,

Forward!

and from the Half-squadron Officers,

Eyes Left!

the Leaders of the central Division dropping to their posts in the rear: the Half-squadron Officer in command of the Leading Division will move out a Division length to the flank, to receive the Left Division: the Half-squadron Officers take up their correct Intervals and Covering; and the Squadron Officers will see that their Half-squadrons dress to the Pivot-flank.

PLATE 20.—A.

In forming Squadrons the operation is precisely similar; the words being given,

Front form Squadrons!

Left Half-squadrons, Left Incline!

The **Left Half-squadrons** *double the pace*, and incline to the left, until their front is clear of the preceding ones, they then receive the words,

Forward!

Eyes Centre!

PLATE 20.—B.

If further required to form Line, the word is given,

Form Line to the Front!

Rear-squadrons Left Incline!

the leading Squadron continues its pace; the remaining Squadrons incline to the left, *at double* the former pace, until the distance and intervals are obtained, when the Squadron Officers give the word,

Forward!

and, when in Line with the Leading Squadron,

Walk } according to the pace of the Squadron  
or }  
Trot, } which directs.

PLATE 20.—B.

In diminishing the front of a Column, the former operation is reversed. If an Open Column of Squadrons be *right in front*, the word will be given,

Form Half-squadrons!

Left Half-squadrons, Halt!

Right Incline!

the Half-squadron Officer giving the word,

Forward!

as soon as their Pivot-flanks cover in Column: the Officers of the Right Half-squadrons shift to the Pivot-flank.

In the same manner, the words being given,

Form Divisions!

Left Divisions, Halt!

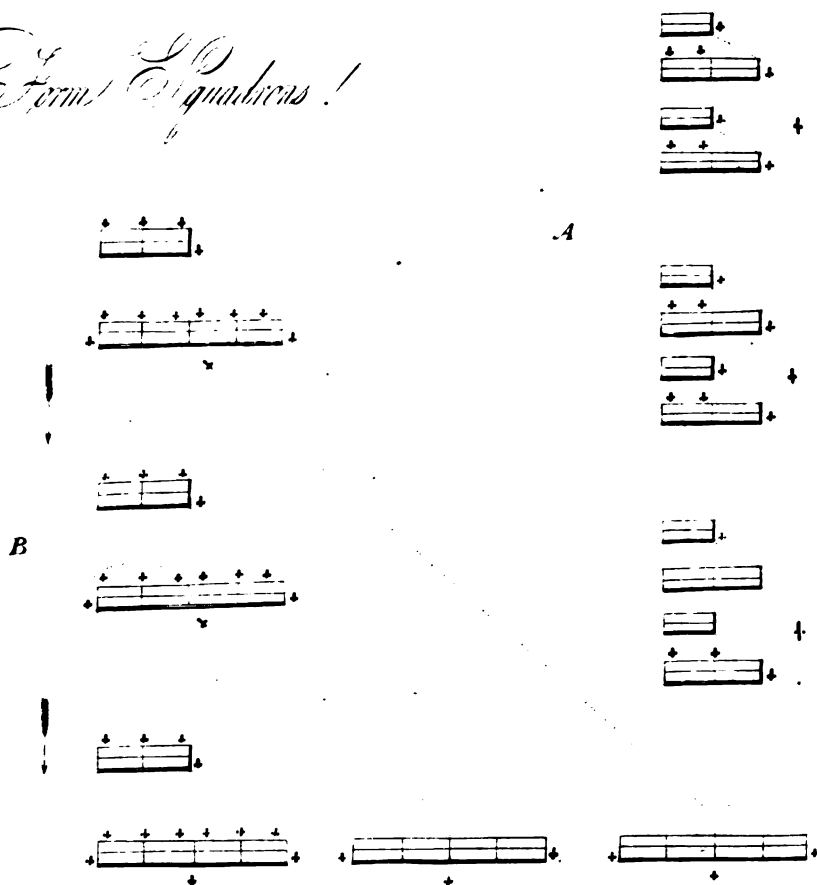
Right Incline!



Open Column Right in Front;  
in the March:

Divisions: Form Half Squares!

Form Squares!



Form Line!

the Division Leaders take post on the Pivot flanks of each Division; and, when these cover in column, give the word,

Forward!

taking up the proper intervals.

---

If a further diminution of front be required, the word is given to the whole,

Threes Right!

Right Shoulders!

Forward!

the head of each Division of the Squadron closing to the rear of the preceding one.

---

## DOUBLE COLUMN.

---

The Double Open Column of Half-squadrons, or (if the strength of the Regiment will admit of it,) of Divisions, is a most useful and important formation, when obstacles occur on the flanks to interrupt an advance in Line; from the facility of forming Line afterwards to the Right, Left, or Front. For Example,—

Advance in Double Column of Divisions from the Centre!

Divisions, Inwards Wheel!

March!

The Divisions on the right of the Centre wheel to the left; those on the left of the Centre to the right: the two Centre Divisions of the Line move forward a distance equal to their own front: the Division Leaders take post on their proper Pivot-flanks: viz. *on the right* of those Divisions *which wheeled to the left*; and *on the left* of those *which wheeled to the right*.



A Caution being given,  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Right} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Left,} \end{array} \right\}$  Column direct,

the pace is sounded; and, on the word,

**March!**

the two Centre Divisions move in a direct line to the front, abreast of each other, with about half a horse's length distance. The remaining Divisions wheel in succession to their Pivot-flank keeping their intervals, and dressing by the corresponding Division in the Column named to direct. *PLATE 21.—A.*

---

If required to form Line to the Right-flank, the Column will receive the words,

**Halt!**

**Form Line to the Right!**

The Squadron Officers of the right Column will immediately give the Caution,

**Wheel into Line!**

and place themselves fronting the Centre of their Squadrons: the Adjutant, Sergeant Major, &c. fronting as directed, to give the Alignement on the Right Squadron. All the Squadron Officers will also gallop forward and mark the central points for their respective Squadrons. On the word,

**March!**

the whole of the Right Column wheel into Line; the Left Column moving forward, and forming to the Reverse-flank, by each Division wheeling and moving up in succession, in the manner directed for that formation: with the exception that in Column of Divisions, the Leaders remain on the Pivot-flank; those commanding the Central Divisions falling back to their places in the rear, when their Division is halted in Line. *PLATE 21.—B.*

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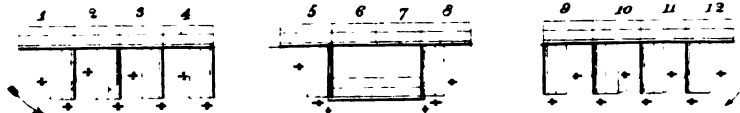
In forming Line to the Left Flank, the operation is precisely similar: the Left Column wheeling into Line, and the Right Column forming to the Reverse-flank. *PLATE 21.—C.*



# *Advance in Double Column of Divisions from the Centre!*

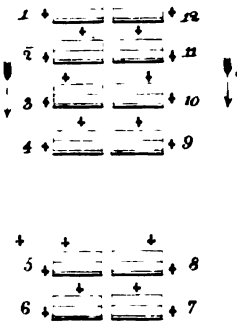
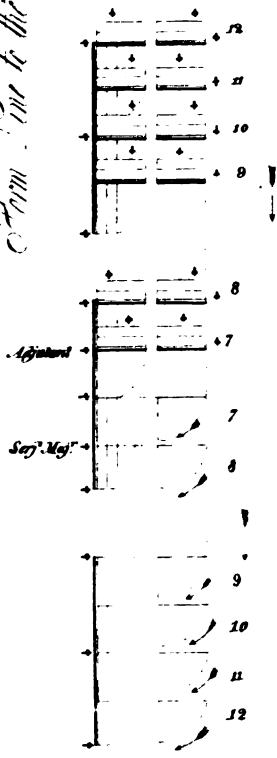
*Plate 21*

*A*

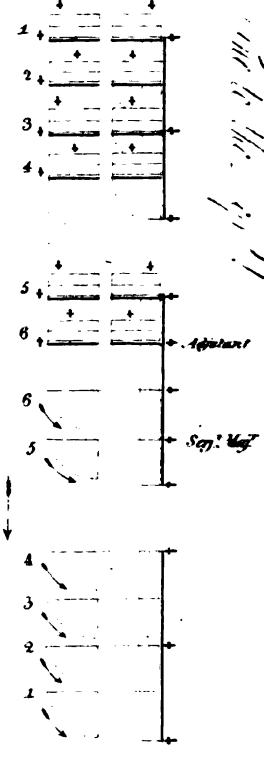


*B*

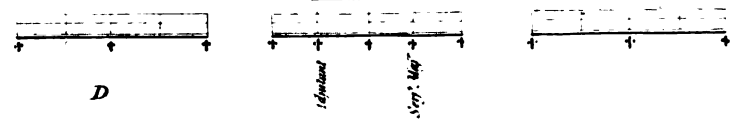
*Form One to the Centre!*



*Form One to the Centre!*



*D*



*Form One to the Centre!*

If a Double Column be required to form Line to the Front, upon the "Halt" and Caution being given,

Form Line to the Front!

the two leading Divisions (being central ones of the Squadron,) move forward a distance equal to their own front, and close together: the Squadron Officer places himself fronting the centre; the Adjutant on his Left, the Sergeant Major on his Right, fronting the usual points to mark the Alignement: the remaining Squadron Officers gallop forward to mark their central points. The Division Leaders place themselves in front of the Centre of their Divisions, and on the word,

March!

the Leaders *in the right* Column give the word,

Right Incline!

those in the Left Column,

Left Incline!

and (judging their points from the position of the Squadron Officer,) lead the Divisions to their places in Line. The Half-squadron Officers turn to the flank to mark the Alignement, and the Leaders of Central Divisions to their posts in the rear.

PLATE 21.—D.

## THE LINE.

---

THE Movements of the Line consist principally of Advances, Attacks, and Retreats: Flank Movements, and Changes of Position upon any distant point. being usually made in Column, as before explained.

A Line however of one Regiment (or the *inward-flank Regiment* of a Brigade,) may change its front upon either flank, or upon the Centre, by Echelon Movement: for Example,—

1.———Throw forward the Right!

Half-squadrons, Left Quarter-wheel!

March!

The second caution explains the Angle, to which the Line is to be advanced; which is always *double that named for the wheel of the Half-squadrons*; the Left Half-squadron therefore, which is the Base of the Movement, makes a *Half-wheel* to the Left; and upon this the Adjutant, with the Squadron Officer and Sergeant Major regulate the Alignement: the remaining Squadron Officers ride forward, and mark *the central points* for their Squadrons: and the Half-squadron Officers place themselves in front of the Centre of their Half-Squadrons: the Pace having been sounded, on the word,

March!

the whole move forward in Echelon; and when the inward flank of each Half-squadron is nearly perpendicular\* to its point in Line, the word is given,

Left Shoulders! and

Forward!

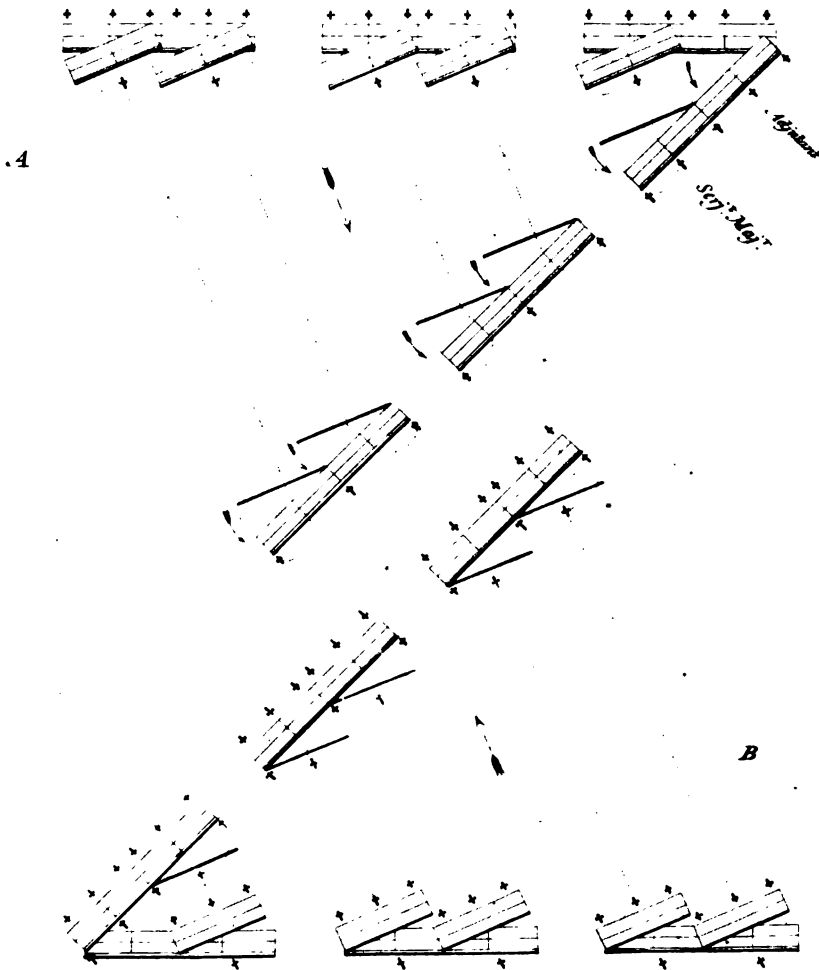
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\* The Quarter-wheel made by each Half-Squadron, on the word, "*Left Shoulders!*" being on a *moveable Pivot*, must commence before the inward flank is exactly perpendicular to its point in Line: as the inward flank continues its pace, and the outward flank increases the pace in proportion.



Plate 22.

1. Throw forward the Right!



2. Throw back the Right!

when parallel to the intended Line; and, when just entering the Alignment,

Halt! Dress!

the Half-squadron Officer turning to front the outward flank-file, until the word is given,

Eyes Front!

PLATE 22.—A.

2.———Throw back the Left!

Threes About!

Half-squadrons, Left Quarter-wheel!

March!

The second Caution, as before, explains the intended Angle: and the Right Half-squadron consequently (being threes about) makes a *Half-wheel* to the Left, and receives the word,

Halt! Front! Dress!

and upon it the Adjutant, &c. mark the Alignment: the Squadron Officers mark their central points, and on the word,

March!

the Half-squadrons (being threes about) follow the Serrefile Officers; the Half-squadron Officer in rear of the Centre of the Front-rank, giving the words in proper time,

Right Shoulders!

Forward!

Halt! Front! Dress!

and immediately placing himself fronting the outward Flank-file. PLATE 22.—B.

N. B....Should the Half-squadron Officer find that his Half-squadron was not moving correctly in Echelon to its point, he can check the error, by "*Right, or Left Incline!*" and "*Forward!*" when corrected.



## 3.———Throw forward the Left!

Half-squadrons, Right Half-wheel!

March!

The second Caution, in this instance, explains that the Line is to be advanced *the whole Wheel* (or the fourth part of a Circle). The operation is, in other respects, precisely similar to the preceding Movements; the Half-squadrons making *another Half-wheel* on the moveable Pivot, at the word "Left Shoulders!"

PLATE 23.—A.

## 4.———Change front on No. 3. Left thrown back!

Left Wing, threes About!

Half-squadrons, Left Half-wheel!

March!

This Central Movement is merely a compound of the preceding ones; the Right flank being thrown forward, the Left back: the Half-squadron named as the Base, *wheels forward the full Quarter-circle*, and upon it the Alignment is regulated. The remaining Half-squadrons move in Echelon to the front and rear, as before explained.

PLATE 23.—B

## COUNTERMARCH OF THE LINE.

If the Regiment consists of an uneven number of Squadrons (three, or five,) the Countermarch will be most expeditiously effected upon the Centre Squadron:  
Example,—

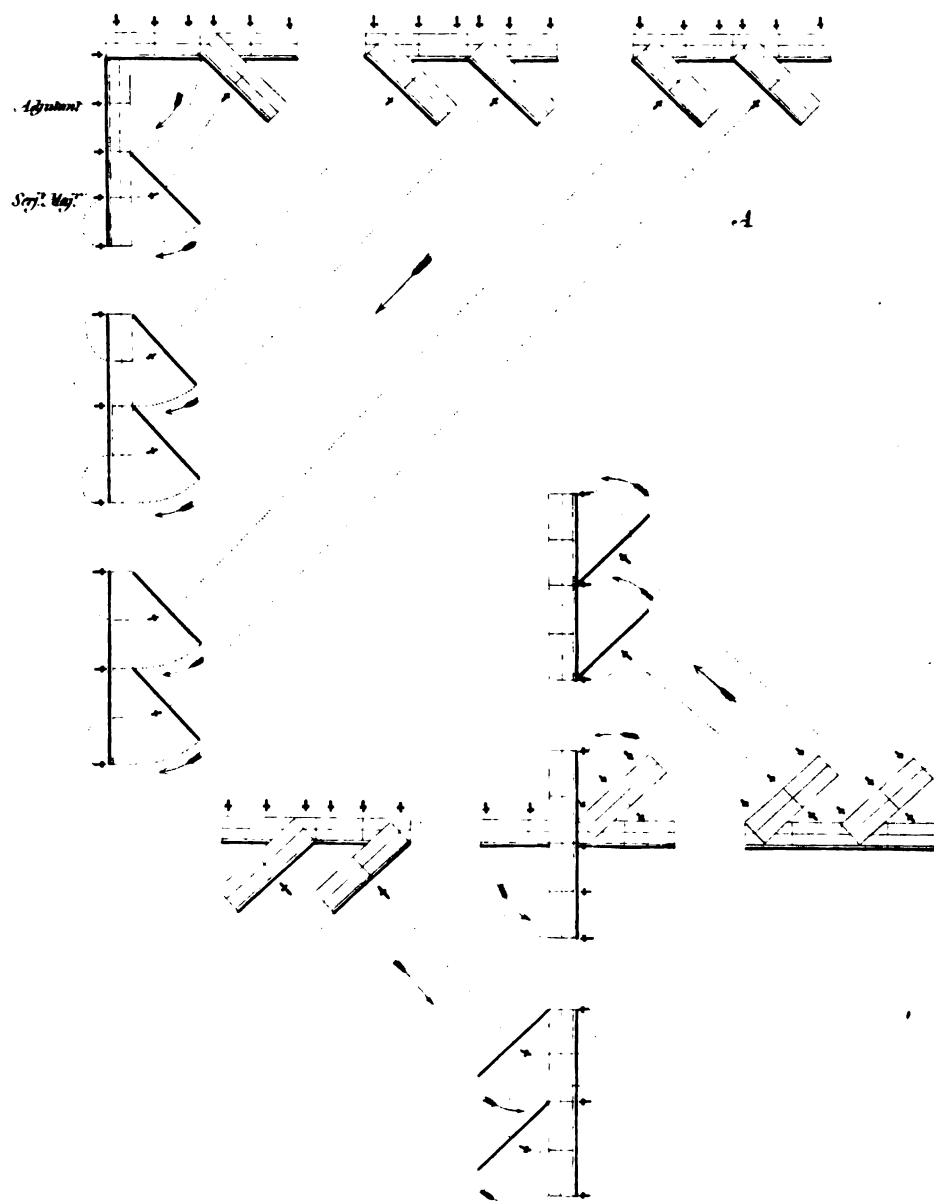
The Line will Countermarch on the Centre Squadron!

Upon this Caution the Officer commanding the Centre Squadron, gives the word,  
Right Half-squadron, threes About!



Plate 23

3 Press forward the Tip!

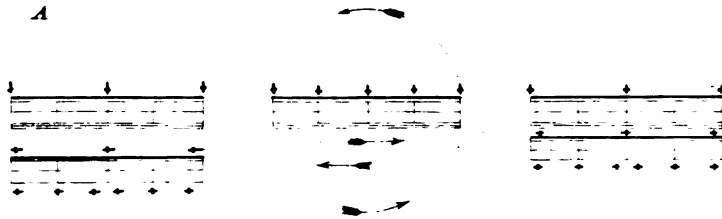


4 Press Front in N. 3 - Get thrown back!

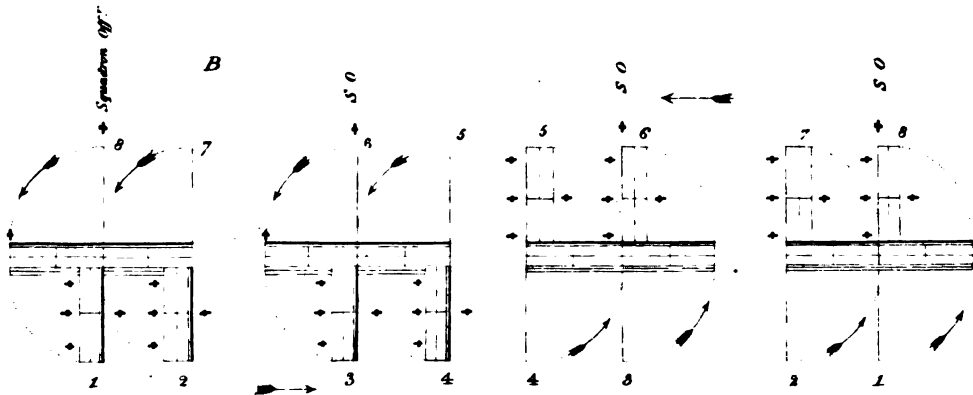


*Countermarch of the Line  
on the Centre Squadron*

A



B



*Countermarch of the Line  
upon the Centre, by Half Squadrons!*

the Commanding Officer then gives the word,

Threes Inwards!

The Officers commanding the Right and Right-centre Squadrons,

Threes Left!

those commanding the Left, and Left-Centre,

Threes Right!

the Officer commanding the Centre Squadron,

Right About, Wheel!

March!

Halt! Front! (*to the Right Half-squadron:*)—Dress!

During the wheel of the Centre Squadron, the Pace is sounded, and the moment the Wheel is completed, the Commanding Officer gives the word,

March!

the Squadrons from the Right moving close along the rear of the Centre Squadron; and those from the Left leading out sufficiently to pass them at a horse's length distance. The Squadron Officers, at the word, "March!" gallop forward to take up their Central points; and the leading Half-squadron Officer of each Squadron, as soon as his Interval is obtained, gives the word,

Right }  
or } Form!  
Left, }

and immediately fronts the Flank of Formation, taking up the Dressing from the Centre Squadron.

PLATE 24.—A.

If the Regiment consists of an even number of Squadrons, the Central Countermarch may be made by Half squadrons or Divisions: for Example,—

The Line will Countermarch on the Centre by Half-squadrons!

Left Wing, threes About!

Half-squadrons, Left-wheel!

The Squadron Officers, in this case, will place themselves opposite their Central Points, *without the flank of the Column*, on the intended front; on the word,

March!

each Column, taking their proper Intervals, will form in succession to the Reverse-flank, as already explained; and the Commanding Officer will give the word,

By the Right Centre }  
or } Squadron, Dress!  
By the Left Centre }

The Squadron Officers will move up to front the Centre of their Squadrons; and the Adjutant and Sergeant Major to their points, to regulate the *Alignement* upon the Squadron named.

PLATE 24.—B.

The Countermarch of the Line may also be made from either flank, in Column of Half-squadrons or Divisions; or by threes; but these being simple Movements, upon principles already fully explained, it is unnecessary to enter into further Exemplification.

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## ADVANCE IN LINE.

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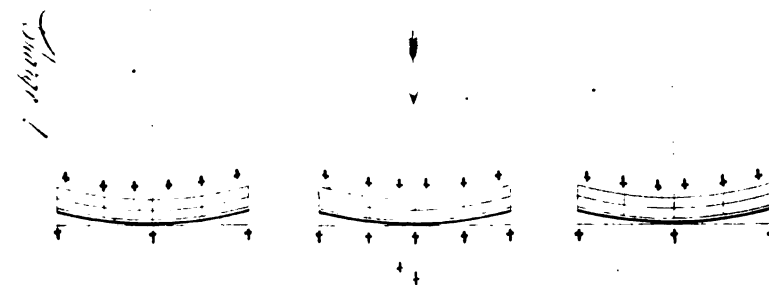
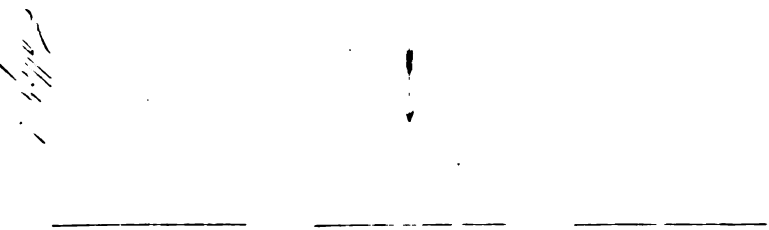
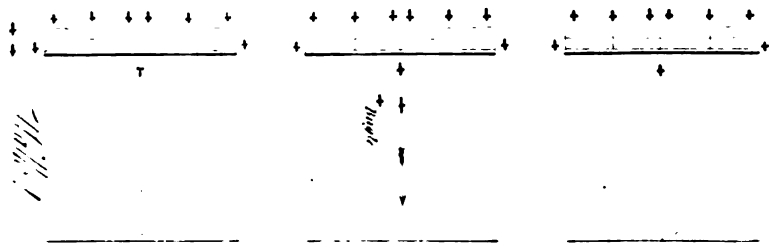
THE Advance in Line, as preparatory to the attack, is the most important of all the Movements of Cavalry: it is the great object to which all other formations and movements refer; and, on the steadiness and regularity of its execution, the success or failure of an attack must materially depend. The least appearance of unsteadiness gives confidence to an Enemy; whilst, on the other hand, firmness and regularity may even check his intentions, though superior in force: for it has already been shown that an Attack *must be met*, if it be only on the principle of Defence. If Cavalry, under any circumstances, stand still to receive an attack, their Defeat is inevitable.





July 25

Sketch of the  
by the introduction!



The whole strength of Cavalry consists in the compact arrangement and unity of the Squadron: it is as one body, under one head, to which alone the attention of every individual composing it is to be directed.

The Dressing of each Squadron is *to its own Centre*, to which every eye must glance, without turning the head or body; the Horses kept light, but well in hand, and square to the front; neither crowding inwards, nor flying off, but maintaining, as near as possible, the correct distance of six inches from knee to knee: the Non-commissioned Officers in the Centre strictly following, and conforming to the movements and pace of the Squadron Officer, at one horse's length distance.

It is of the first importance that the flanks of Squadrons should not advance beyond the line of Dressing; as, by doing so, they must embarrass the other Squadrons of the Line, and occasion crowding to their own Centre: the flank Officers and Men should therefore be cautioned to keep the flanks slightly back in the more rapid paces of the gallop, and Charge. The actual Charge, made in the form of a small segment of a Circle, will have the more powerful effect; and if the Squadron be halted without making an Attack, the Dressing-up to the Centre is recovered with the greatest facility.

If the foregoing instructions are adhered to, the Advance in Line is entirely dependent upon the Squadron Officers; who, on their part, must act without giving the least attention to those following them. The Officer commanding the Squadron named to direct will keep his eye constantly fixed upon any two objects he has selected on a line directly perpendicular to his Front; and be careful to keep *an even steady pace*, (at whatever pace may be sounded:) any checking, swerving, or alteration of pace on his part must necessarily shake and disturb his whole Squadron. The remaining Squadron Officers will take their Dressing and Intervals from him, as also the Pace when sounded; and, giving their whole attention to these points, will move in all respects *as if there were no other person*

*in the field.* When a Halt is sounded,\* they will immediately turn to front the Centre of their respective Squadrons, and the Half-squadron Officers to the outward flank-files: the Adjutant giving the Alignement as usual upon the Squadron of Direction.

PLATE 25.

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## THE LINE WILL RETIRE.

---

As no Body of Cavalry should ever advance to the Attack without a sufficient support, when a Regiment attacks in Line, in the course of Exercise, it must be supposed that they are supported by Cavalry or Infantry in their rear. It may be necessary to retire through this second Line; which can be effected from either flank of Squadrons, by Divisions or by threes; or by threes from the flanks of Half-squadrons; thus forming an open Column upon the Halt, ready to wheel into Line, to its original Front: for Example,—

Retire by Divisions from the Right of Squadrons!

Divisions Right-wheel!

March!

The Right Division of each Squadron, upon the word, *wheels Right-about*; and the remaining three Divisions wheel to the Right: the Division Leaders take post on their Left-flank: the Pace being sounded, on the word,

March!

the whole move, in *separate Columns*, direct to the Rear; the Divisions wheeling

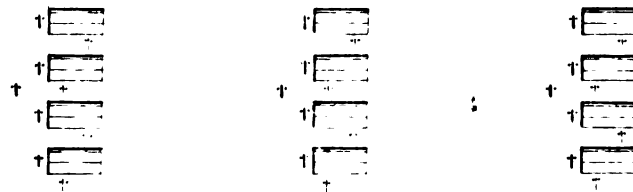
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\* In the actual Charge, where resistance is met with, the Halt, if any, will be gradual and irregular, according to circumstances, and the effect produced; but, in Exercise, to show the readiness of man and horse, it should be made at once.

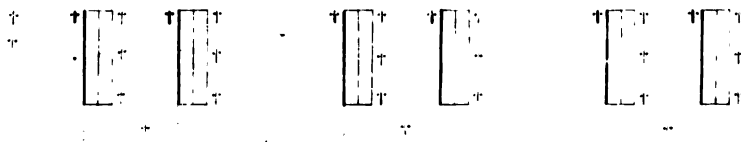
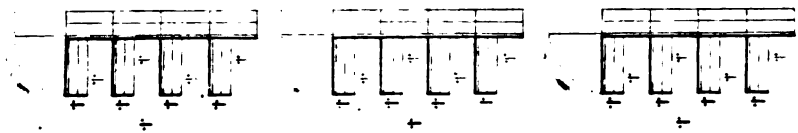


Plate 26

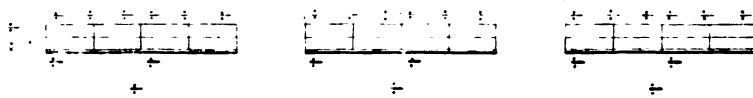
Circle by Divisions from the Eight of Quadrants.



A



B



Circle by Triangles from the Eight of Quadrants.

in succession at the point, which was the Right of the Squadron: the Columns taking their intervals from, and dressing by the Left Column.

When required to form Line, the Commanding Officer gives the word,

Leading Divisions, Left wheel!

and the Division Leader,

Forward!

when the Quarter-circle is complete.

The Squadron Officers halt *at a Half-squadron's length* from the Pivot-flank of their Leading Divisions: the Divisions wheel in succession to the Left; and, when the flank of his Second Division has reached the Squadron Officer, he will give the word,

Halt!

The word is then given to the Whole by the Commanding Officer,

Wheel into Line!

March! Halt Dress!

PLATE 26.—A.

Retire by threes from the Right of Half-Squadrons!

Threes Right!

The Half-squadron Officers immediately place themselves on the flank of their leading threes; and, on the word,

March!

bring the Left-shoulders forward, and lead directly to the Rear: taking their Intervals and Dressing from the Left. On the words,

Halt! Front!

they stand in Open Column of Half-squadrons Right in front; and can wheel into Line when ordered.

PLATE 26.—B.

The foregoing Examples show the method of making an immediate and rapid Retreat; but frequent instances occur where it is desirable to effect a protracted

Retreat, and to keep a pursuing Enemy in check as long as possible: with this view, the movement must be made in such order, as to have some portion of the force always formed, and ready to meet an Attack; and still further to impede and harrass his advance, Skirmishers should be thrown out in front: for Example,—

Retire, by alternate Half-squadrons, from the Right!

Covered by Skirmishers!

A certain number on each flank of the Squadrons (viz. either four, five, or six files, according to the strength of the Regiment,) will have been cautioned by the Adjutant to act as Skirmishers when called for: these, upon the last Caution, will immediately return Swords and draw Pistols.

The whole of this movement is ordered by Bugle; upon the sound "Retire" the Right Half-squadrons go *Threes-about*, and move directly to the Rear, Dressing to their Left: the Half-squadron Officers placing themselves (as Squadron Officers) in rear of the Centre of their Front-rank; when the sound is repeated, they give the words,

Halt! Front!

And the Left Half-squadrons, at the same time, go *threes-about*, and move to the Rear, passing the flanks of the preceding ones; and so on alternately, as long as the Retreat continues in this order.

When the Left Half-squadrons have gone about, and retired so far as just to pass the preceding ones, (or at any moment the Commanding Officer may judge most advantageous,) the Bugle will sound "Skirmishers Out," when all those cautioned will immediately gallop out, and arrange themselves *at even distances* along the front; the Rear-rank halting about sixty yards in front of the Half-squadrons most advanced, and the Front-rank about thirty yards in front of them: and proceed to skirmish as directed.—See *Instructions for Skirmishers*, page 68.

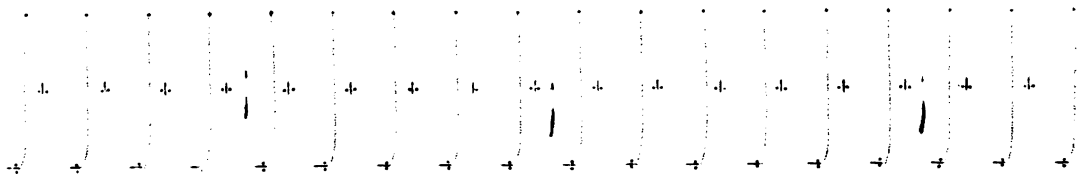
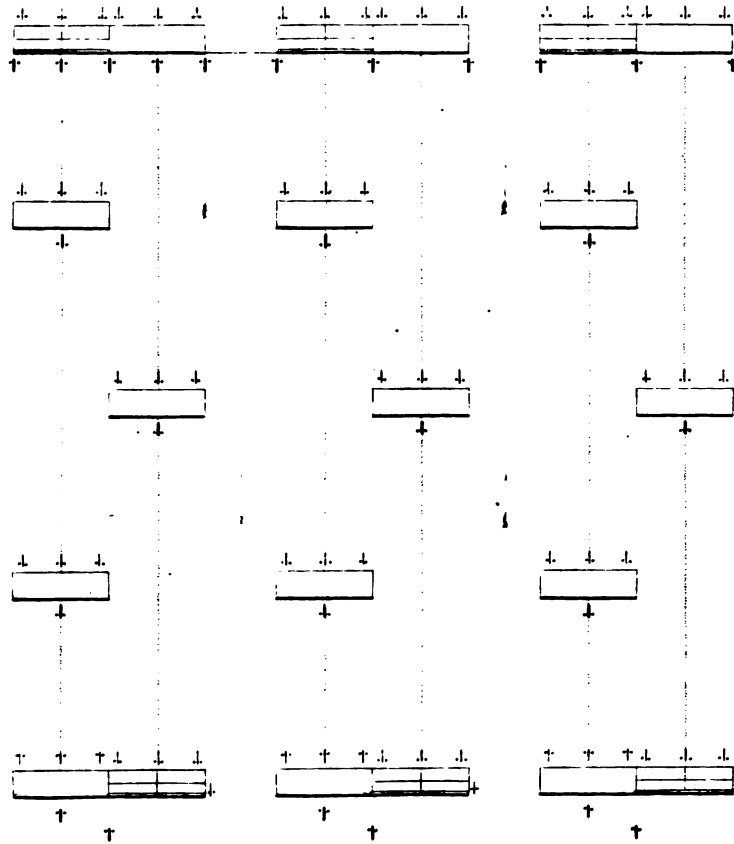
A Retreat having been thus made, the Commanding Officer may form Line at once, *either upon the Front or Rear Half-squadrons*; and the Bugle sound "*Skirmishers In.*"

PLATE 27.

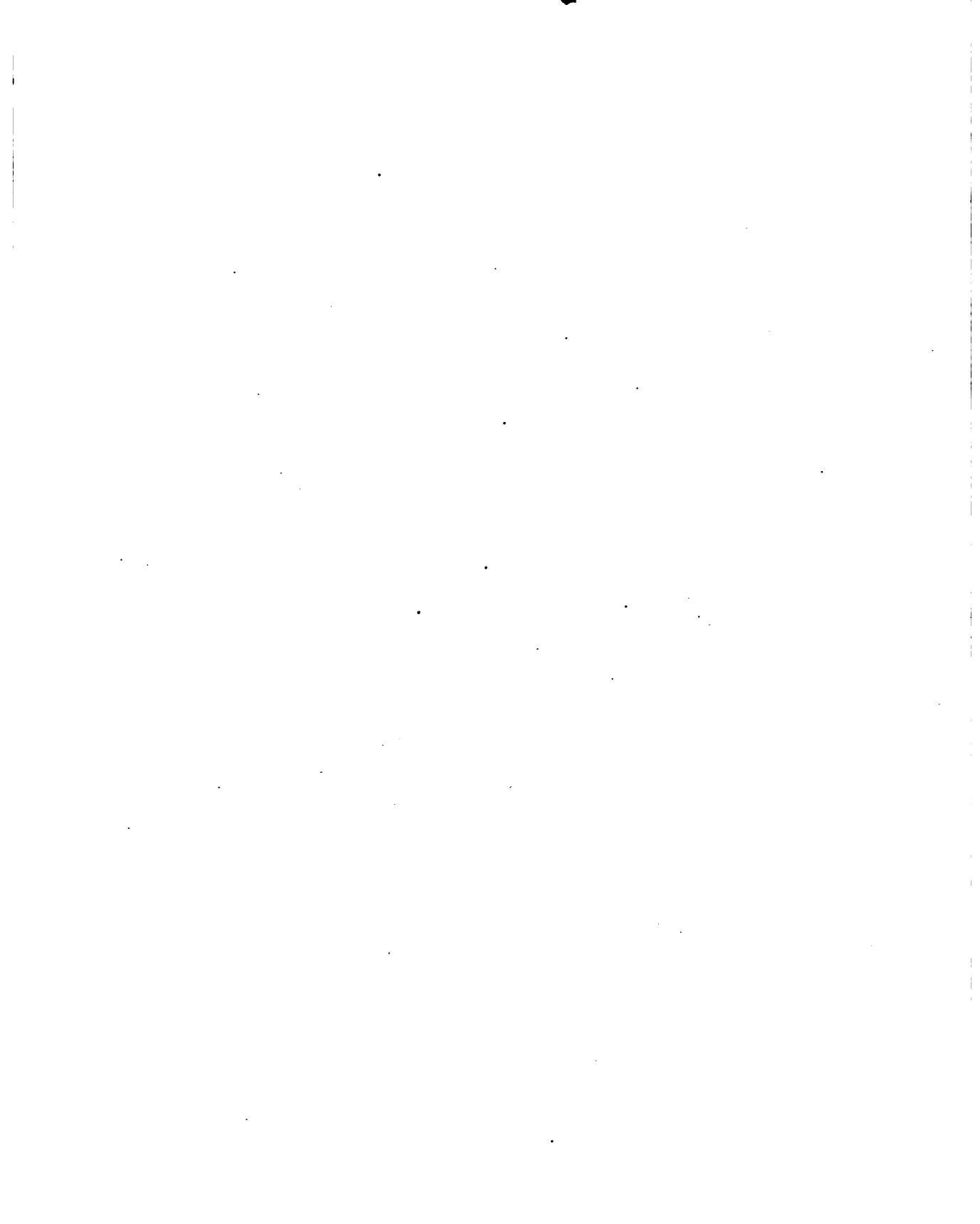




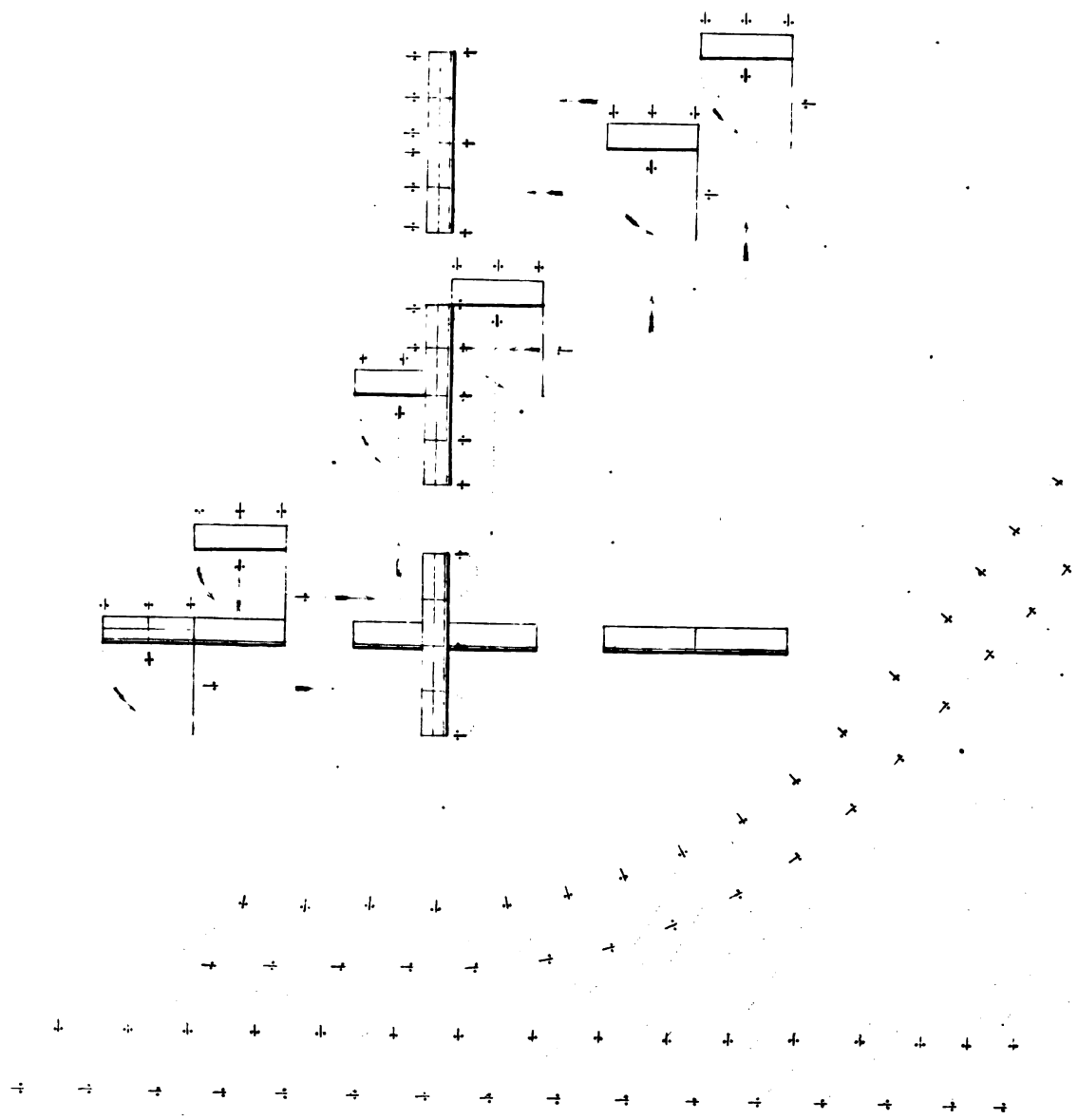
*Refere by Alternate Half Quadrans from the Eight!  
Covered by Firmishers*



*Firmishers -*



1. Curve in Section of 'Lally's' Quadrant from the Left
2. Range from to Left B. from Line M.B. over by Perimeter



Perimeters.

A Line may also Retire and Change Front during the Retreat, by the direct Echelon of Squadrons or Half-squadrons, from either flank: for Example,—

1.——Retire in Echelon of Half-squadrons from the Left!

Covered by Skirmishers!

The Left Half-squadron receives the word,

Threes About!

and, upon the word,

March!

moves in a direct Line to the Rear.

Each Half-squadron going about, and moving off in succession, and taking the same Intervals as in Open Column. The Commanding Officer sounds for Skirmishers at his discretion, as in the former movement.

Having retired as far as he deems necessary in this order, the Commanding Officer gives the words,

2.——Change Front to Left!

Left-wheel!

The Right Half-squadron then leads the Retreat.

The Skirmishers, from the commencement of the operation should conform to the Echelon Movement; by gaining ground, at each change of Ranks, to the Left and to the Rear; so as completely to cover the front when changed.

The Line may be formed upon any Half-squadron, whether flank or central: for Example,—

Halt!

3.——Form Line on No. 3!

Half-squadrons on the Right, (of No. 3)

Front!

The Alignement is marked on No. 3; and, on the word,

March!

the whole move direct to their places in Line; and the Skirmishers are called in.

## THE CHARGE.

---

It has been already stated that, in every Attack of Cavalry, it is of the utmost importance to have a Reserve formed and steady ; which may be able to follow up the attack if successful, and complete the overthrow of the Enemy ; or serve as a cover to protect the body, if unsuccessful, in their retreat and re-formation.

The Proportion of Force for Attack and Reserve must necessarily depend upon circumstances, and the discretion of the Commanding Officer. Indeed, the success or failure of the actual Charge must generally depend upon the promptness and intelligence displayed in these arrangements, and the steadiness and vigour of their execution. Much, therefore, will depend upon the Squadron Officers who lead : It must be their object to preserve a steady, even, and regular advance, until the moment of attack, *when about sixty yards from their Opponents* : and then, by their Action and Example, to rouse and excite the Soldier to rush boldly and impetuously on his Enemy.\*

“ Rising in the Stirrups and pointing the Sword will always occasion a shake in the Squadron ; it will naturally be done when necessary. It is in the

---

\* The Description of the Charge is well given in the French “Ordonnance Provisoire pour la Cavalerie, 1815.”

“ La charge n'est pas proprement dite une manœuvre : c'est une marche directe, mais plus vive, plus impetueuse, dont l'ennemi est le point de direction, comme sa defeat en est le terme ; elle rentre donc naturellement dans les principes de la marche directe, a partir de loin ; mais a mesure qu'on se rapproche de l'ennemi, elle prend le caractere d'attaque : ainsi, quand le Commandant du Regiment jugera etre a telle distance de l'ennemi qu'il puisse engager la charge, ni de trop loin, ce qui essouffleroit les chevaux et leur oteroit la force d'impulsion, ni de trop pres, ce qui nuiroit a l'elane necessaire.”

uniform velocity of the Squadron that its effect consists. The Spur as much as the Sword tends to upset an opposite Enemy ; when the one has nearly accomplished this end, the other may complete it."—*Cavalry Regulations*, 1813.

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## ATTACKS AND SUPPORTS.

---

IN Field Drill and Exercise advancing to the Attack, Retreating, Rallying, &c. with proper supports, cannot be too often practised ; to familiarise both Officers and Men with these most important points.

Suppose a Regiment of Three Squadrons, arriving upon a Plain, in Column of Half-Squadrons : and imagine an Enemy they are to attack in front. The Commanding Officer will form Squadrons to the front, as soon as the ground will permit ; and attack with the Right Squadron ; having cautioned the Centre and Left to support.

The Support, under the command of the senior Officer, will steadily follow the attacking Squadron when they *Trot* ; the Support will continue to *Walk* ; and, when they increase the pace to a *Gallop*, the Support will *Trot* ; when they *Charge, Gallop*. If the advance is of long continuance at the Walk, or Trot, and circumstances render it advisable, the Support may form Line to the Front.

In a Regiment of Five Squadrons, the attacking body should consist of two Squadrons ; the Support of two Squadrons ; and a Reserve of one Squadron in the rear.

In actual Service, the conduct of the Support after an attack, must necessarily depend upon circumstances : but in Drill and Exercise, upon the Charge being completed, the Support will drop into a walk, and move steadily forward.

The Attack being supposed successful, the "*Pursuit*," should be immediately sounded ; and the whole Squadron gallop forward, opening out from the

Centre, and cutting right and left, as soon as sufficient distance is obtained : as they proceed, the Rear Rank will drop back to about 30 yards in Rear of their Front Rank, following their Front Rank men as near as possible. When the Pursuit is to be checked, the Commanding Officer will sound,

“ Halt ! ” for the whole.

The Squadron dispersed in front will immediately catch up their distances, in two Ranks, as Skirmishers ; Return Swords, Draw Pistols, and commence Skirmishing to the front. PLATE 29.

After a short Advance, the Line, (i. e. the Support,) may be ordered to retire ; and, upon the sound, the advanced Squadron will Retire also, Skirmishing to the rear. Should the Line change front in the Retreat, the Skirmishers will conform to, and cover the movement, as in PLATE 28.

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If the Commanding Officer should think proper to repeat the Attack, he will sound “ *the Rally*,” upon which, the Officer commanding the advanced Squadron will give the word,

Peloton to the Flanks !

the Half-Squadron Officers will turn fronting the outward Flanks, and raise their Swords : the Skirmishers of each Half-Squadron, (front and rear ranks), will turn outwards, gallop to the flank, and form at once upon the Officer ; who will place himself in front of the centre of his Half-Squadron. PLATE 29.

As soon as these are formed in Peloton, the next Squadron may advance between them to the Attack ; and, in the same manner, the third. The First, or Right Squadron, closing (by threes inwards) and forming the last Support.

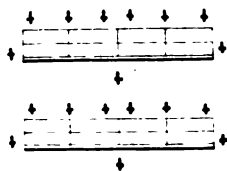
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If instead of “ *The Rally*,” as above stated, the Commanding Officer should sound, “ *Skirmishers in ;*” the Skirmishing Squadron will turn outwards, and close up in file to the Flanks, at a brisk pace. The Half-Squadron Officers leading them to the rear, and forming (*Rear Form !*) to the Squadron Officer, wherever he shall have posted himself, to mark the centre of the Squadron.

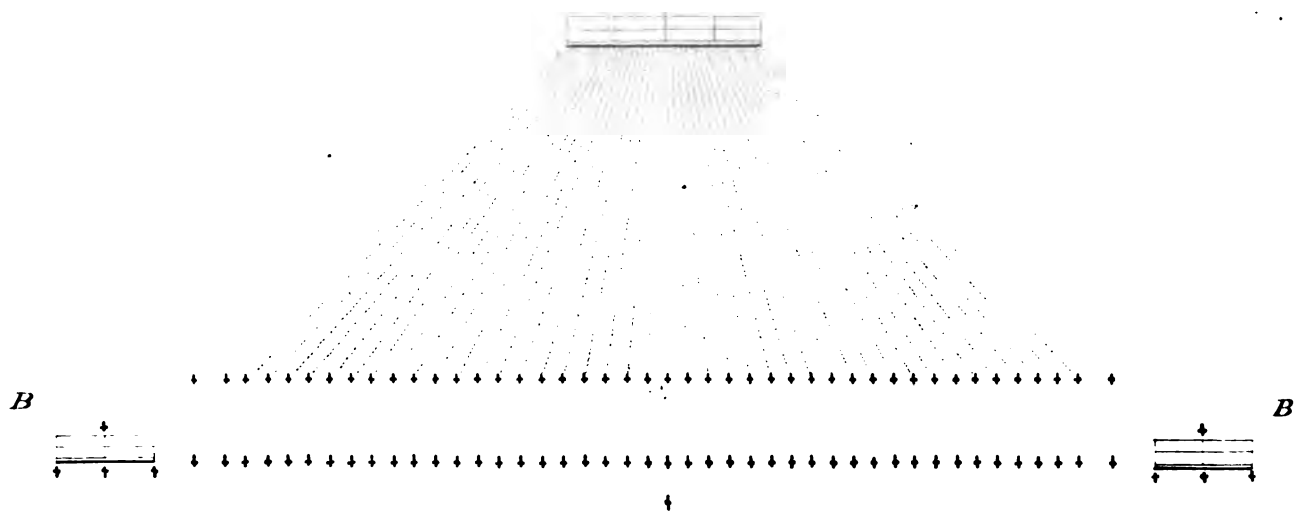




1. Right Squadron Attack and Pursue! *Plate 29*  
Centre and Left Support!
2. Rally, and form Column to the front!



4



## SKIRMISHERS.

---

SKIRMISHING is a most essential Duty, as it is *the only Defence* of Cavalry; and too much attention cannot be given to the instruction and practice of every individual in this particular. A certain number of Files, on each Flank of the Squadron when told off, are cautioned to act as Skirmishers in general, when called for: but in Light Cavalry especially, the entire Regiment should be fully competent and accustomed to this duty; and whole Squadrons should be frequently thrown forward to Skirmish, in the manner already described.\*

When Skirmishers are called out, they will dash briskly forward, and align themselves at even distances along the front, halting at the word of the Officer in charge of them: the Rear Rank allowing the Front Rank to gain ground during the advance to thirty yards in front of them, and covering their Front Rank men; an Officer, or Non-commissioned Officer in command of each Rank, being in front of the centre.

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\* This opinion is strongly supported by a fact related in one of the notes to Major Beaumish's Translation of Count Bismark's Lectures on Cavalry Tactics.

"On the 4th of July, 1810, the Picquets of the 16th Dragoons were attacked by the Enemy in such superior force, (nearly three Regiments of Cavalry,) that they were forced to give way, and retire towards Gallegos; the Enemy followed up his attack with such rapidity, that the Dragoon who was entrusted with the report of the French advance, could not reach Gallegos before them, and both appeared at the same moment in front of the 1st German Hussars who were already formed. Captain Krauchenberg, whose Squadron was posted a little in advance of the Regiment, immediately led it on at full gallop, to within fifteen paces of the Enemy's line, where he formed the whole Squadron into a line of Skirmishers. The Hussars being thus brought so near the Enemy, poured a most destructive fire into his ranks, and supported by a few well-served discharges from Lieutenant Macdonald's guns, succeeded in checking the pursuit of the French, and defeating the intended surprise."

When the Skirmishers have advanced *from sixty to one hundred yards* to the front; (the distance must be regulated according to the number employed, the strength of the Regiment, varieties of Ground, &c.) they will receive the word,  
Halt!

Upon which the Rear Rank will stand steady to the front, with their Pistols or Carbines at the recover.

N. B. The Pistols or Carbines, when it is intended to Skirmish, should be previously loaded.

The Front Rank, upon a signal from their leader (by waving his sword), will immediately turn to the Right, and move towards that flank at a brisk walk, about ten or twelve yards; and in the same manner, upon a signal, will go about, (always towards the front), and move to the Left. The leader of the Rear Rank will make the signal of "*Ready*," by holding up his sword at the full extent of the arm; and the leader of the Front Rank will make the signal to *fire*, by pointing his sword towards the Enemy. Not a word should be spoken if it can possibly be avoided, that full attention may be paid to the signals from, and movements of the Line they are covering.

Upon the signal to Fire, the first who perceives it obeys immediately, and each separately, as his aim is taken. It is by no means desirable to fire at once, as in a volley; but each man taking a cool and deliberate aim, and being especially careful to level low. The Horses to be kept in motion the whole time.

If Skirmishing to the front, (i. e. to cover an advance), when the Front Rank have fired; the Rear Rank, on a signal from their leader, will move forward at a gallop, to about thirty yards in front of them, (each man passing to the Left of his front-rank man), halt by signal, and commence the flank movement immediately; which will be continued, till upon (the signal of "*Ready*," from the Rear,) they fire, halt, and front.

The Front Rank standing steady and square to the front, will load as expeditiously as possible, bringing the Pistols or Carbines instantly to the recover when loaded.

If Skirmishing to the Rear, (to cover a Retreat), the Rank which is in front having fired, will, upon the leader's signal, go right about, and gallop to the distance of thirty yards in Rear of that just loaded; halt, front, and load as rapidly as possible.

N. B. Each Skirmisher of the Front Rank either in advancing or retiring, will pass his Rear Rank man to his Right; whilst the Skirmishers of the Rear Rank, under the same circumstances, pass on the Left: except when it is required to gain ground to either flank, to cover the movements of the Line; in which case, each Rank will pass on that hand to which ground is to be taken.

## OF THE LINE.

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THE Movements and Manœuvres of a Line, or Brigade of Cavalry, are similar to, and composed of those of a single Regiment. They will in general be compound movements, inasmuch as it may require two or more modes of Manœuvre to execute a Change of front, or position ; but the method of execution, as regards each, remains precisely the same.

The Regiment on the inner flank will move on all respects as a single Regiment ; and if there be one or two more Regiments in Brigade, their changes of situation are performed, for the most part, in Open Column.

The Adjutant will mark the Inward flank, and the Regimental Sergeant Major the Outward flank of the new position for the Regiment. And when the leading Half-Squadron or Division shall arrive at the point so marked by the Adjutant, the Squadron Officers will move out and take up the central points for their Squadrons, as in Regimental Manœuvre. The only variation necessary in practise is, that the Adjutant being *on the extreme Right*, and the Sergeant Major *on the extreme Left* of the Regiment, the Half-Squadron Officer *on the inward flank* will place himself where the Adjutant is posted in Regimental Movements, and the Adjutant will regulate the Alignement upon him and the Squadron Officer. The Half-Squadron Officer *on the outward flank* will remain on the flank of his Half-Squadron ; the Sergeant Major marking that point : for Example,—

In a Line of Three Regiments, (of Three Squadrons each,)

The Line will change front, right thrown forward !

PLATE 30.

The Left Regiment (A) will proceed in the usual manner by the Echelon movement.

PLATE 22.—A.

Plate 30

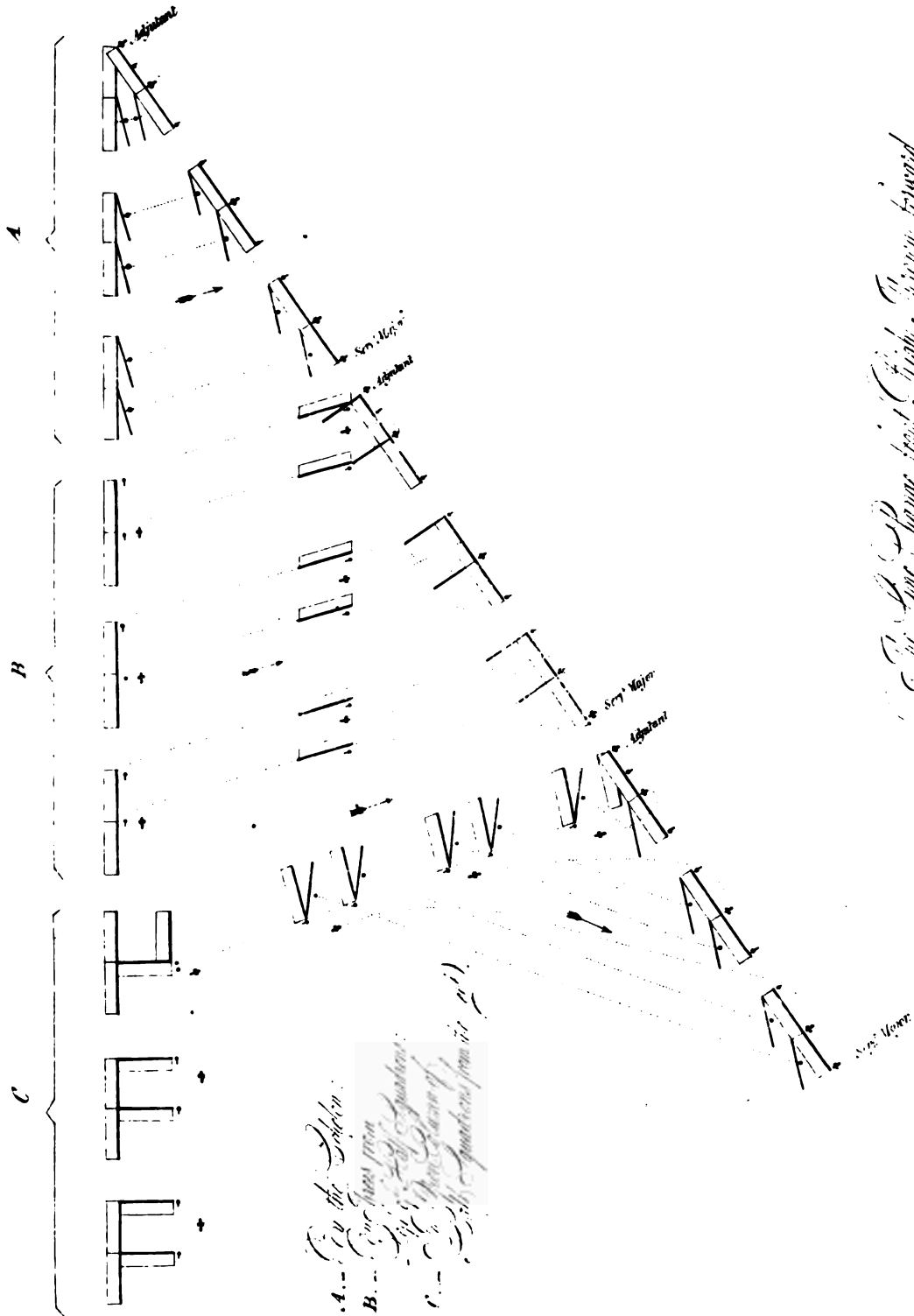


Plate 30



The Centre Regiment (B) will advance by Threes from the Left of Half-Squadrons ; Left incline on the march, and enter the new Alignement by the flank march of the Column. When the Left Half-Squadron has reached the point, marked by the Adjutant, they will receive the words,

**Halt ! Dress !**

The Squadron Officers will then gallop forward to mark the central points for their respective Squadrons ; and when the Column is halted, the Regiment will wheel into Line.

The Regiment on the Right (C) will advance from the Left in Open Column of Half-Squadrons, lead upon the point marked by their Adjutant ; and, when the head of the Column has arrived there, Halt, and form Line to the front in Echelon.

*See PAGE 45.—PLATE 17.—A.*

**THE END.**















